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Juppé Gives More Ground In Bid to End French Strike

Prime Minister Says He'll Freeze Proposal To Change Rail System

By Youssef M. Ibrahim
New York Times Service

PARIS — Prime Minister Alain Juppé gave more ground to striking transport unions on Monday evening, announcing that he would freeze a five-year restructuring plan for the state-owned rail system as labor leaders called for mass demonstrations to drive home their demands in a strike that has paralyzed much of the country for 18 days.

The rail plan has been one of the main issues in the strike.

Mr. Juppé also said that he was broadening talks with unions to cover employment issues.

He said that he had asked Labor Minister Jacques Barrot to convene a discussion with unions next week. But the welfare changes on which he has staked the prestige of his government were not mentioned in a list of topics he suggested could be included in the talks.

It was unclear how the biggest unions involved in the strike, Workers' Force and the General Confederation of Workers, or CGT, would react to the moves, and there was no immediate reaction from the organizations.

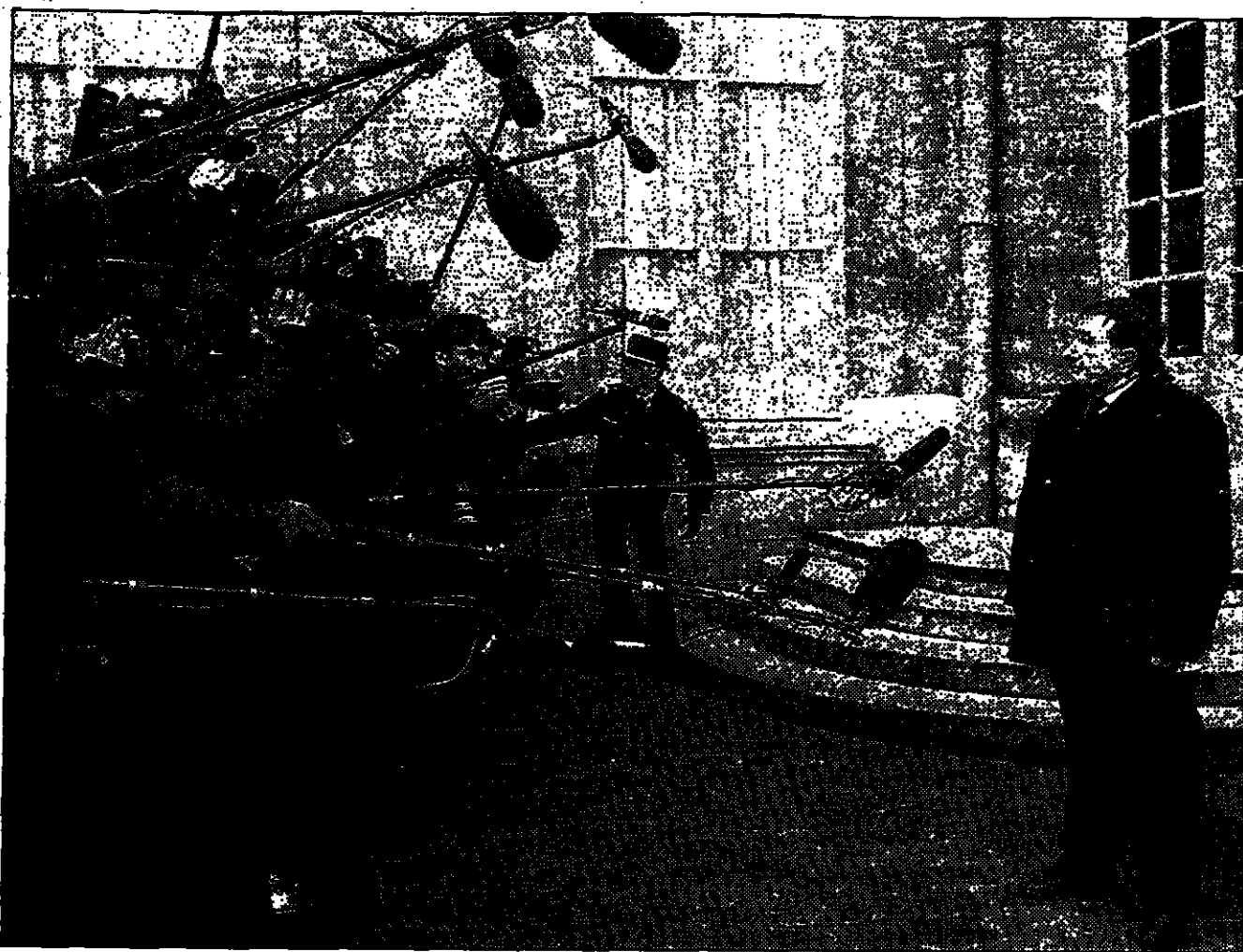
But a smaller union that represents just under 6 percent of unionized rail workers, the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions, called for a return to work, saying Mr. Juppé had "agreed to all our demands."

Earlier Monday, after meeting with Mr. Juppé, the leaders of Workers' Force and the CGT had appeared to reject the prime minister's efforts at compromise, calling for replacing their calls for major demonstrations on Tuesday.

Apparently sensing victory in Mr. Juppé's stated willingness in a television interview Sunday to back down from some aspects of his plan to trim a \$50 billion deficit in France's social security fund, the union leaders were holding out for a cancellation of the government's austerity program and possibly the fall of Mr. Juppé's conservative government.

Emerging Monday afternoon from an hour-long meeting with Mr. Juppé, Marc Blondel, secretary-general of Workers' Force, said Mr. Juppé needed to scrap all his proposed changes and begin conversations anew on how to plug the deficit that threatens to destroy the social security system.

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Louis Viannet, head of the CGT union, holding forth to an eager press corps after meeting Monday with Mr. Juppé.

In Russian Arctic, the Voter Mood Is Icy Bitter Miners Favor Any Party but the Government's

By Michael Specter
New York Times Service

VORKUTA, Russia — There is no such thing as moderation in the Arctic. Russia learned that lesson well enough a few years ago, when the coal miners of this former penal colony, which is closer to the North Pole than to Moscow, helped bring communism to its knees.

At the time, as they sang and sang, prisoners, the miners at this harsh outpost on the tundra led a national strike in 1989, and their undimmed fury two years later helped propel the reform leader, Boris N. Yeltsin, to the presidency.

Much has changed in Russia since then. But not everything. The idea of the stolid working man still has a deep emotional resonance, and what miners think still matters. With parliamentary elections scheduled for Sunday, the miners here have one thing on their minds: how to get rid of anyone connected with the government that they helped bring to power.

"I don't want to be one of these people who just says life was better under communism, though it was," said Lyudmila Svedova, 60, chief economist at the Yur-

Yega mine here, one of the 13 that ring a city built by Stalin's prisoners.

"It's much worse than that," she said. "I voted for Yeltsin and cried when he won. We trusted him and all his reformers to give us a chance to work hard and live better. We thought democracy was about more choice. We were naive, and we paid with everything we had."

Despite their physically remote and emotionally defiant position in Russian society, what the miners plan to do in the elections tells much about Russia and its choices today — as it did when they overwhelmingly supported Mr. Yeltsin in 1991 and when many jumped the ship of reform to support the ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in parliamentary elections two years ago.

Not one among dozens of miners interviewed here last week said they would sit out the election. That would be committing the unforgivable act of throwing their votes away.

Some will take a deep breath and vote for the Communists, like many of their working brethren across the country.

It is not a happy thought in this grim city, where thousands of simple wooden crosses remind people of what the Communists did

in Vorkuta not long ago. Others seem attracted to the restrained nationalism and call for order of Alexander Lebed, a former general. A few, not totally ready to toss the ideas of democracy aside, said they would support Grigori Yavlinsky and his Yabloko party. A couple of them said they still favored Mr. Zhirinovskiy, whose star has dimmed across Russia.

But none said they were planning to vote for the government party, Our Home Is Russia, created by Mr. Yeltsin and led by its prime minister, Viktor S. Chernomyrdin. Many laughed when asked the question. Others spat. A few even cried.

These are people deeply preoccupied with their futures. Some are here because their parents served — and usually died — in the labor camps whose abandoned buildings still dot the single, icy road around the town.

Others were lured north of the Arctic Circle for the "long ruble," the extra money and benefits that Soviet workers received when they undertook particularly challenging and essential tasks or lived where nobody in his right mind would choose to live. "We are not unrealistic or

See ARCTIC, Page 12

Agnelli to Resign In Fiat Shake-Up Successor at Automaker Is 72 And a Target of Prosecutors

By Alan Friedman
International Herald Tribune

Gianni Agnelli, the chairman of Fiat, unexpectedly announced Monday that he would step down next spring and turn over control of Italy's biggest private-sector corporation to Cesare Romiti, its 72-year-old chief executive, whose indictment was sought by prosecutors only last week.

The move will end a 30-year reign at Fiat during which Mr. Agnelli, scion of one of Europe's best-known corporate dynasties, consolidated financial, industrial, media and political power and became known as Italy's "uncrowned king."

Mr. Agnelli had indicated that he would leave the helm of Fiat by 1996, when he turns 75, but his choice of Mr. Romiti as successor surprised some Fiat-watchers because the latter is so near to retirement himself and has faced various investigations by anti-corruption magistrates.

Prosecutors in Turin said five days ago that they would seek to indict on charges of illegal financing of political parties, providing false information and tax fraud. He has denied any wrongdoing.

The prosecutors also want to indict Francesco Paolo Mattioli, the Turin-based automaker's chief financial officer and a longtime associate of Mr. Romiti's.

Ernesto Auci, a spokesman for Fiat, quoted Mr. Agnelli on Monday as saying "that he was sure this matter would be resolved in a positive manner" and that Mr. Romiti would be "acquitted of any wrongdoing."

Mr. Agnelli, who has suffered from heart problems, told 500 top Fiat managers Monday that Mr. Romiti would serve as Fiat chief for the "next few years" in order to prepare for a "generational passage." That is believed to be a reference to the likelihood that Mr. Romiti will be succeeded by Giovanni Alberto Agnelli, the chairman's 32-year-old American-educated nephew who presides over the Piaggio motor scooter company in Tuscany.

The outgoing Fiat chairman, a playboy-turned-industrialist who captured the imagination of gossip magazines in the 1950s and 1960s and who is the grandson of the company's founder, was groomed from youth to take over the family business.

In Italy, Mr. Agnelli is more than just the chairman and major shareholder of a company expected to have 1995 sales of nearly \$50 billion and a work force of 240,000. He is also seen as being more powerful than any prime minister and is known for his friendships with noted figures ranging from Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state, to members of the Kennedy family.

The appointment of Mr. Romiti, a square-jawed former state industry manager who has cultivated a tough-guy image since joining Fiat in 1974, raised questions about the future.

Despite Mr. Agnelli's assertion that Mr. Romiti would not head Fiat for long, observers noted that he has had distinctly cool relations for years with Umberto Agnelli, Gianni Agnelli's younger brother and the father of Giovanni Alberto Agnelli.

"Romiti has always been more powerful than his nominal boss, Gianni Agnelli," a senior executive from a rival company said, "and now he will probably try to stay until he is 80."

In Italian finance, Mr. Romiti is a close ally of Enrico Cuccia, the 87-year-old head of Mediobanca, the secretive and powerful Milan merchant bank.

Mr. Romiti has also been closely associated with Gemina, a holding company under the control of Fiat and Mediobanca that angered many international and domestic investors this autumn by trying to take control of the Ferruzzi group, which is involved in industries ranging from chemicals to insurance.

Before the deal collapsed, investors complained that Mediobanca was helping Gemina to take over Ferruzzi in a manner that ignored minority shareholders' interests.

ASEAN Reaps Benefits Of Its Free-Trade Course

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

BANGKOK — Trade in Southeast Asia has jumped sharply since ASEAN liberalized trading rules among its members, and it will expand further after leaders of the group endorse more reforms this week, officials said Monday.

The Association of South East Asian Nations will extend its preferential trade agreement, known as the ASEAN Free Trade Area, to services on Friday, officials said. The pact was launched in January 1993 with a focus on trade in goods.

The value of trade among the ASEAN members surged 41 percent last year, to just over \$111 billion from \$79 billion in 1993, figures compiled by the ASEAN secretariat in Jakarta show. That compares with the European Union's 1994 commerce of 761.1 billion European currency units (\$987.9 billion).

ASEAN's total two-way trade, with the outside world as well as within the region, rose about 30 percent, to \$506 billion in 1994 from \$419 billion in 1993.

Amnuy Viravan, Thailand's deputy prime minister, said Monday that the seven members of the Association of South East Asian Nations had agreed to start negotiations immediately to liberalize trade in such areas as aviation, shipping and possibly business services and construction. The seven are Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and

Vietnam. Mr. Amnuy said a detailed action plan for removing barriers would be drawn up within three years for approval by the next ASEAN summit meeting in Hanoi.

But he said progress could be much faster in three of the highest priority areas — tourism, financial services and telecommunications — where agreement could be reached on a liberalization program within a year.

Analysts said that growing evidence of the effectiveness of the ASEAN free-trade plan was likely to increase concern in the West that it would discriminate against imports from industrialized countries and impede global trade liberalization, although this is denied by ASEAN officials.

After talks with ASEAN economic ministers in Bangkok on Monday, Sir Leon Brittan, vice president of the European Commission, said studies by the World Trade Organization showed that so long as a regional trading arrangement did not raise external barriers as it lowered internal ones, the harm done by any diversion of trade was outweighed by the new opportunities for business provided by additional growth in regional economies.

"So I don't want to make any complaint" about the ASEAN free-trade area, he said.

With a total population of 420 million, the ASEAN preferential trade zone is larger

See ASEAN, Page 12

French Airmen Could Be Freed Soon, Belgrade Hints

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SARAJEVO — Belgrade raised hopes on Monday that two French pilots shot down by Bosnian Serbs in August could be released soon.

Defense Minister Pavle Bulatovic told a visiting NATO delegation in Belgrade that the Bosnian Serbian authorities were preparing to issue a statement on the pilots and hinted it would be positive.

He also indicated the pilots were being held as bargaining chips to force a renegotiation of some parts of the Bosnia peace deal agreed last month in Dayton, Ohio, to which the Serbs objected.

In Paris on Monday, a presidential aide said France was suspending threatened reprisals, which had been decided but not yet announced, while talks continued.

"Intensive contacts are under way on the one hand with our allies, on the other hand with Belgrade. Under these conditions, the decisions taken by France will not be announced today," the official said.

The official was speaking after President Jacques Chirac held the second meeting of the day with his defense

and foreign ministers on the fate of Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignat, whose Mirage 2000 was shot down over the Bosnian Serbian stronghold of Pale in NATO air raids on Aug. 30.

In Washington, the White House said "there has been activity" on the question and added it was "very hopeful" they would be released soon. There has been speculation that Bosnian Serbs were holding the pilots to press for changes in parts of the Dayton deal bringing Serbian-held parts of Sarajevo under Muslim-Croat control.

It was also thought the Serbs might be trying to overturn a clause in the treaty barring indicted war criminals from holding office. Both Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serbian leader, and his army commander, General Ratko Mladic, have been indicted by the United Nations tribunal in The Hague.

The French government, which had set a Sunday-evening deadline for the return of the pilots and threatened retaliation, refused to comment on the optimistic reports coming out of Belgrade and Washington.

"When the time comes, we will express ourselves," the

French Foreign Ministry spokesman, Jacques Rummelhardt, said.

In Sarajevo, Serbs were preparing for a referendum in the Serbian-held northern and western suburbs, which revert to government control under the terms of the peace plan. Western governments insist the outcome of Tuesday's referendum will have no effect on the Bosnian peace deal, due to be formally signed in Paris on Thursday.

The referendum was organized by Bosnian Serbian leaders to highlight what they say is the impossible predicament of Serbs being forced to choose between living under the rule of their former Muslim and Croat enemies or leaving their homes.

But in a counterdemonstration in the capital, Sarajevo residents rallied to say they could live happily alongside the Serbs. Some 3,000 people, Serbs as well as the city's majority Muslims, gathered on the city's main street in an organized counterblast to recent protests in Serbian-held suburbs against the peace deal. The protesters said they

See BOSNIA, Page 12

Godzilla Dies, but Hype Breeds Hope

Agence France-Presse

TOKYO — Godzilla is dead, and fans are planning a Christmas Eve funeral for Japan's greatest movie monster.

The creature that ravaged Tokyo for four decades, destroying more buildings than the world's richest country could ever afford to replace, died on the screen Saturday in the premiere of his last film.

Hollywood is planning a high-tech reincarnation of the fire-breathing dinosaur, but it remains to be seen whether computer graphics and American know-how can

recreate the flavor of the Japanese version.

For purists, the Nippon Travel Agency will offer a one-day "funeral tour" of Tokyo on Christmas Eve for 5,200 yen (\$52) to mark his last movie opening, "Godzilla vs. Destroyer."

Godzilla, in his 22d and supposedly last movie, dies in the waterfront area of the Japanese capital.

The travel agency said it planned the funeral tour as an answer to "requests by fans shocked by Godzilla's death."

The trip will take mourners to the Tokyo metropolitan government building, the Parliament, the Ginza district and other places the monster torched and trampled.

Over 41 years, Godzilla has destroyed much of Tokyo, but after each visit the city's architecture has been remarkably restored.

The monster also has defeated every high-technology device pitted against him — from jet-fighter aircraft to mechanical nemeses — survived all the weapons of war and destroyed the landmark Tokyo Tower countless times.

The tour will also visit a square in the movie-house area of the Hibiya district in Tokyo where Godzilla's moviemaker, Toho Co., unveiled a one-meter bronze statue of the famous monster on Dec. 3.

He's taller in the movies. His height usually varied with Tokyo's high-rises, but he always towered over the skyscrapers. The tour will also give fans a chance to lay a wreath at the spot where Godzilla meets his end, the travel agency said.

Godzilla first stormed the screen in 1954, when a hydrogen bomb test awakened the giant dinosaur from a long sleep at the bottom of the South Pacific.

But his ultimate destination was Tokyo, to which he swam, and where, watched by millions, he became a hero.



MADRID BLAST — A policeman standing next to the remains of a car that exploded Monday, killing at least five people and wounding a dozen. Page 5.

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Sad Tale of a Pacific Island

THE AMERICAS
\$100 Billion Found for U.S. Budget

ASIA
Opening Shot in Japanese Campaign

EUROPE
Eastern Nations Stalled in EU Drive

AGENDA

Israeli Troops Leave Nablus

NABLUS, West Bank (Reuters) — The Israeli Army on Monday pulled out of Nablus, the biggest town in the West Bank, as part of a transfer of authority to Palestinians.

Several hundred residents cheered, danced in the streets and fired into the air after soldiers withdrew two days ahead of schedule from the military headquarters in the northern West Bank town.

"The handover is starting earlier than scheduled in the city of Nablus," said one Palestinian official.

The official said the chairman for the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasser Arafat, had appointed Tayeb Abdel Rahim, secretary-general of the Palestinian Authority, to head a committee to take over governing Nablus from the Israelis on Tuesday morning.

Separately, President Bill Clinton said in Washington that he was sending Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher to the Middle East on Thursday in an effort to revive peace talks between Israel and Syria. (Page 9)

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THE AMERICAS

\$100 Billion Found To Balance Budget

New Projection Optimistic

By Eric Pianin
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republican leaders and the White House will have more than \$100 billion of additional funds to use in bridging their differences over a seven-year balanced budget plan because of a new, more optimistic economic and spending forecast by the Congressional Budget Office, according to sources.

The forecast, to be made public this week, will replace more pessimistic projections used by the Republicans in preparing their balanced budget.

A major stumbling block to a compromise has been a dispute over which set of economic assumptions to use in determining how much spending will be allowed during the next seven years as the government gradually moves toward a balanced

budget. The White House contends that it should be able to spend at least \$400 billion more than the Republicans, using forecasts of economic growth, interest rates and other factors.

They were provided by the administration's Office of Management and Budget rather than the more conservative Congressional Budget Office, the major budget referee for Congress.

The new figures would narrow the gap between the opposing forces by more than \$100 billion. A proposal under consideration by the Republicans and the White House to shave a fraction of a percentage point off the cost-of-living adjustments for social security and other government programs might close the gap even more.

Although the two sides remain far apart on a broad range of issues, including spending cuts and policy changes in Medicare and Medicaid, the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, and the Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, Republican of Kansas, said over the weekend that the new figures were critical to forging a budget and tax-cut deal before the deadline on Friday and averting another partial government shutdown.

Budget talks between the Republicans and administration and congressional Democratic leaders have been stormy and generally unproductive in the last two weeks. Relations appeared to sour even more after President Bill Clinton unveiled a seven-year budget plan of his own late last week that the Republicans insisted was wide of the mark.

Over the weekend, however, Mr. Dole and Mr. Gingrich appeared more upbeat and urged President Clinton, in a telephone call to Air Force One as he flew to Washington from Arkansas, to meet with them to try to negotiate a compromise before he leaves Wednesday for Paris for the signing of the Bosnia peace accord.



A man trudging home as a blizzard dumped 34 inches of snow on Buffalo, New York.

'Awesome' Storm Buries Buffalo

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, New York — A blinding blitz of white has buried Buffalo in a record 34 inches of snow, shutting down the airport, canceling schools and turning malls into Christmas ghost towns. And snow was falling Monday, with up to 4 more inches expected.

"It's unbelievable," said Robert Stone, manager at Greater Buffalo International Air-

port. "It's really awesome to be out here and see this snow fall in such a short time."

The nearly 3 feet that fell by Sunday night broke the previous 24-hour record of 25 inches (64 centimeters) set in January 1982. The snow closed the airport Sunday, canceling more than 200 flights. Officials resumed flights Monday.

A state of emergency was in effect, with all nonurgent travel barred from the streets.

Burned Subway Worker Dies

Two More Attacks Reported in New York

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The subway token clerk who suffered burns and lung damage two weeks ago when two men turned his Brooklyn booth into an inferno in a botched robbery has died.

The death of the 50-year-old clerk, Harry P. Kaufman, came Sunday as two more fire attacks on token booths were reported.

The new attacks brought to seven the number of similar incidents since the Nov. 22 release of the film "Money Train," in which a pyromaniac sets token booths ablaze with flammable liquid. The movie has been criticized as promoting violence.

No one was seriously hurt in either of the two weekend attacks, one in the borough of

Queens, the other in Brooklyn. Mr. Kaufman had been in critical condition since Nov. 26, when he suffered second- and third-degree burns over 80 percent of his body and severe lung injuries from smoke after two men squirted a liquid through the token slot and ignited it with a match. No one has been arrested in the attack.

POLITICAL NOTES

An Arkansas Farewell

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas — President Bill Clinton came back to his political hometown during the weekend for parties marking something he rarely considers a reason to celebrate: the retirement of a Democratic senator.

But he made an exception for Senator David H. Pryor, who has been an ally and mentor since Mr. Clinton first held office in Little Rock.

"This is a night I hoped would never come," Mr. Clinton told Arkansas Democrats at a dinner that also helped raise \$500,000 for a state party that is broke.

Mr. Clinton has said that since coming to Washington he has counted on Mr. Pryor, his predecessor as governor of Arkansas, and Senator Dale Bumpers, for a continuation of the informal coaching the two older men long ago gave the up-and-coming politician. (NYT)

Standoff on Subpoena

WASHINGTON — When the Senate Whitewater committee convenes this week to debate President Bill Clinton's decision to defy its subpoena, the senators will be adding to an already rich history of confrontation between lawmakers and witnesses over the attorney-client privilege.

Last Friday, the committee ordered a former White House aide to provide the notes of a 1993 meeting in which senior advisers and lawyers of Mr. Clinton conferred about Whitewater.

The White House has said that on Tuesday, the deadline for responding to the subpoena, it will assert that the meeting was protected by the privilege and that Mr. Clinton has as much right to confidentiality in dealings with his lawyers as he has with his minister and his doctor.

The president made such an assertion in an interview published Sunday by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette in Little Rock. "In all the history of these inquiries, no one has ever asserted before that the president should have no personal lawyer-client relationship," he said. "And so that is the issue. And it seems to

me that if that's going to be the rule, then perhaps a judge ought to decide that and ought to determine what the limits of it are." (NYT)

Gingrich Pressure on Iran

WASHINGTON — In highly unusual move for a congressional leader, the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, who is a Republican of Georgia, has intervened in House-Senate negotiations over the budget of the CIA and other intelligence agencies to push for a new covert-action program to destabilize the government of Iran, according to sources in the intelligence community.

Mr. Gingrich's demand for some \$18 million in funding for covert action in Iran has become the major reason for a lengthy and continuing delay on an agreement between House and Senate bargainers on the roughly \$28 billion classified budget for the U.S. intelligence community.

Senate Republican leaders and the Clinton administration have opposed Mr. Gingrich's proposal because they believe that such a program would be ineffective and could needlessly poison U.S. relations with the Islamic country.

A spokesman for Mr. Gingrich, Tony Blankley, refused to comment on the reports. One source said the speaker sees Iran as an "evil empire" and believes strongly that the United States should try to oust its current government.

Administration officials fear that public discussion of any program to destabilize Iran could greatly complicate U.S. efforts to secure international support for other measures to apply pressure on that nation. The United States currently has tough trade sanctions in place against Iran because of charges that it supports terrorist activity. (LAT)

Quote/Unquote

President Bill Clinton on talks with the Republicans to avoid another partial shutdown of the government later this week: "We ought to be able to agree on one thing: Nobody — nobody — should threaten to shut the government down right before Christmas." (AP)

Away From Politics

• The black activist who burned alive seven low-wage workers in a Harlem clothing store before killing himself has been named as Roland Smith, 51, who used the name Abubakar Muhammad, the police said, adding that he had a 33-year arrest record. (AP)

• Four people were killed when a subcompact car collided with a van carrying a group of women home from a bingo game, authorities in Altoona, Pennsylvania, said. (AP)

• The demise of a 76-year-old woman who died with a plastic bag over her head while her husband and two sons watched is being investigated as an assisted suicide, police in Joplin, Missouri, said. (AP)

A Bit of Latin Adds to Rancor in Canada

By Clyde H. Farnsworth
New York Times Service

TORONTO — Three Latin words are the focus of a new identity crisis in Canada five weeks after the Quebec independence referendum nearly caused the country's breakup.

In July 1994, the government altered the Canadian coat of arms, adding the Latin inscription Desiderantes Meliorem Patriam — Desiring a Better Country. But it apparently failed to tell anyone until the matter came up last week in the House of Commons.

Members of the western-based Reform Party, which often takes nationalist stances, accused the government of tinkering with national symbols at a time when many Canadians feel alienated and unity is strained.

The new words, which will gradually appear on Canadian money, passports and govern-

ment buildings, were introduced to give the coat of arms "a more Canadian character," said the cabinet official who looks after such matters, Minister of Canadian Heritage Michel Dupuy.

The Latin words were borrowed from the motto inscribed on the Order of Canada medal, the country's highest award.

The arms, which have been untouched since they were adopted by proclamation of King George V in 1921, are those of England, Scotland, Ireland and France, with a sprig of maple on a silver shield to mark the Canadian difference.

More than the addition of the Latin words, which sit atop another Latin inscription, A Mari Usque Ad Mare — From Sea to Sea — Reform Party members objected to the government's failure to tell the people about the change until so recently.

Two Reform Party lawmakers, Chuck Strahl of British

Columbia and Deborah Grey of Alberta, asserted that the change had been slipped past Parliament to avoid a debate on a national symbol that could antagonize Quebecers.

Officials of the heritage ministry insisted that there had been no attempt at a cover-up. Queen Elizabeth II, at Canada's request, approved the change 18 months ago. And Alain Gagnon, an aide to Mr. Dupuy, said: "It is the prerogative of the Queen to change the royal symbol, and therefore there was no need to consult the Parliament."

The only publicity the government gave to the new coat of arms was in a recent booklet on

Canadian symbols, with a picture and one sentence.

The change was announced as the cabinet was pushing through a resolution to placate Quebec after the defeat of the independence referendum. The resolution would recognize Quebec's distinct language, culture and civil law.

"This is all about nervousness over the constitutional future of the country," said Robert Bothwell, a historian at the University of Toronto.

"There is a real uneasiness on the part of many Canadians that the actual political heritage of the country may be insufficient for the maintenance of unity."

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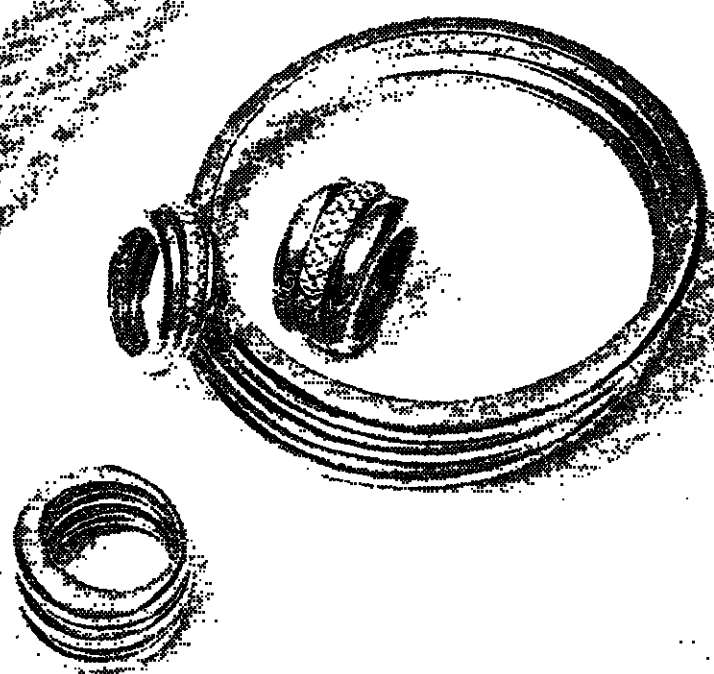
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ASIA

Opposition Leader Quits Post in Japan Opening Shot in Campaign

TOKYO — Former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu announced Monday that he was stepping down as leader of Japan's main opposition party and supporting another political leader as his successor.

In what appeared to be the first shot in campaigning for a general election, possibly as early as April, Mr. Kaifu gave his support to the New Frontier Party's secretary-general, Ichiro Ozawa, for a Dec. 27 election for party leader.

Mr. Ozawa, 53, the architect of a political realignment that led nine opposition parties to form New Frontier a year ago, announced his presidential candidacy shortly after Mr. Kaifu's decision.

"I intend to implement structural reforms covering Japan's outdated system of politics, bureaucracy, economics and society," Mr. Ozawa told a news conference.

In a detailed policy statement, he vowed to cut taxes, create jobs and shorten work days. He also pledged to overhaul the education system, and to build a new capital as a symbol of a 21st century Japan.

Breaking with strict membership rules practiced by other political parties, New Frontier has opened its election to anyone 18 or older who is willing to pay a 1,000 yen (\$10) fee. The winner will be announced Dec. 28.

Mr. Ozawa's main and possibly only challenger will be another former prime minister, Tsutomu Hata.

The leadership battle was set off by New Frontier's failure to attract voter support in the year since it was formed.

An opinion poll last week showed that the party had a popular rating of only 12 percent, far behind Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's coalition of his Socialist Party, the Liberal Democratic Party and the New Party Sakigake of Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura.

Mr. Kaifu, prime minister from 1989 to 1991, Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Hata were once Liberal Democrats. They split from the party two years ago when it was hit by a series of corruption scandals. Since then the Liberal Democrats, under Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's tough-talking trade minister, has clawed its way back to the top of opinion polls.



A Beijing resident reading notices of death sentences at Beijing No. 1 Intermediate Court 11. Check mark indicates sentence has been carried out.

Open Court Session Planned for China Dissident

BEIJING — The trial of Wei Jing-sheng, a leading dissident, has begun, and the court will hold an open session on Wednesday when he can defend himself against a sedition charge, which can be punishable by death.

In an unusual move, the Beijing Intermediate People's Court said Monday that Mr. Wei's defense session could be open to Western reporters.

A court spokesman, Chen Xiong, reached by telephone, said it would also be open to the public, meaning that close kin and a few court-selected citizens would be allowed in.

The defendant has retained a Beijing lawyer, Zhang Sizhi, a relative of Mr. Wei's said. The court turned down requests by two former U.S. attorneys general, Dick Thornburgh and Nicholas Katzenbach, to help in Mr. Wei's defense.

The trial technically opened Dec. 1, when prosecutors lodged the charge of "conspiring to overthrow the government," which can carry the death penalty on conviction.

The same charge was used to imprison many dissidents arrested when the Communist government crushed the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests,

deemed a "counterrevolutionary rebellion."

Widely viewed as a founder of China's democracy movement, Mr. Wei, 46, was first jailed in the late 1970s in the Democracy Wall era after proposing that Deng Xiaoping's Four Modernizations drive needed a fifth component — multiparty democracy.

He was paroled in late 1993 but vanished into legal limbo on April 1, 1994, after meeting a senior U.S. human-rights official in Beijing. Months later China acknowledged holding Mr. Wei, but only disclosed his formal arrest three weeks ago.

His relatives have denounced his prosecution, saying that Mr. Wei did nothing but exercise his constitutional right to speak his mind and that he did not pose a threat to the state.

The official Xinhua press agency has said unspecified actions by Mr. Wei violated criminal law and constituted crimes — language suggesting a conviction is inevitable. Acquittals are extremely rare in China.

The court spokesman said the trial was now in an investigative phase and not open to his family or the public, a procedure he called consistent with international practice.

Seoul Chief To Speak on Chun and Roh Arrest

SEOUL — President Kim Young Sam will make his first public comment on Tuesday over the arrest of his two predecessors, Roh Tae Woo and Chun Doo Hwan, a presidential aide said Monday.

The aide said Mr. Kim's statement would be made through his spokesman, Yoon Yoo Joon, on Tuesday morning to mark the 16th anniversary of a military coup led by Mr. Chun.

Mr. Chun was detained Dec. 3 on charges of military rebellion stemming from the coup. He is expected to be indicted later this month on charges of military mutiny and of bribery during his 1980-88 term in office.

Mr. Chun's successor, Mr. Roh, in detention since his arrest Nov. 16, has been indicted on charges of accepting \$369 million in bribes from wealthy businessmen during his 1988-93 tenure. He faces trial Dec. 18.

Local news reports, meanwhile, said prosecutors would visit the home of former President Choi Kyu Hah, who has refused to comply with a formal request to testify about the putsch and massacre of civilians at Kwangju in May 1980. Mr. Choi was caretaker president after the assassination of Park Chung Hee in 1979.

Separately, prosecutors investigating kickbacks to Mr. Roh questioned the Seoul head of a U.S. company, Lockheed Martin, over a decision to buy 120 F-16 fighter jets in 1991.

It was unclear what Mr. Kim would say about the arrest of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh, although opposition politicians have renewed calls for Mr. Kim to reveal how much he spent winning office in 1992.

A leading opposition figure, Kim Dae Jung, who has admitted accepting \$2.6 million from Mr. Roh to finance his unsuccessful run for president in 1992, has accused the president of accepting millions. President Kim denies taking "a single cent."

BRIEFLY ASIA

China Sees U.S. 'Containment'

BEIJING — An official Chinese magazine Monday accused the United States of seeking to stifle the growth of China and Russia.

"The United States seeks more cooperation than containment with the European Union and Japan, but it seeks more containment than cooperation with China and Russia," the weekly Outlook said.

Containment was a Cold War strategy to prevent the spread of communism from the Soviet bloc.

The article said it was "inevitable" that the United States would try to contain other countries' development to retain its status as the world's only superpower.

U.S. officials have said Washington is seeking to engage, not contain, China, although senior officials have warned that such action might be necessary one day. But Outlook, an official Xinhua news agency publication seen as a reliable window on Communist Party and state policy, said that an ulterior strategy of containment was already under way.

'False Rumors' Irk Pyongyang

TOKYO — North Korea on Monday accused the United States of spreading a "false rumor" that Pyongyang posed a threat to South Korea and Japan.

A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman warned that a "military confrontation" could develop if the United States continued what Pyongyang sees as a policy of hostility.

The comments were carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo.

The military spokesman said the United States was assailing North Korea to divert attention from the South Korean slush fund scandal and American embarrassment stemming from the trial of three U.S. servicemen for the rape of a girl on Okinawa.

Confusion Over Hostages' Fate

SRINAGAR, India — A statement believed to be from the Muslim separatist group holding four West-

erners captive said India had seized three of the hostages and a fourth was missing, an assertion denied by Indian officials Monday.

A handwritten statement similar to ones delivered earlier by the Kashmiri separatist group, Al Faran, and given to a newspaper in Srinagar said the army had seized the Westerners after an confrontation on Dec. 4 in which five guerrillas were killed.

The statement followed a suggestion on Saturday by the Indian Army, based on interrogation of three guerrillas arrested in the clash, that the hostages may have been abandoned or handed over to other guerrillas.

Indian officials later contradicted the army statement and said Al Faran still held the hostages, who were captured in July.

Cuban Leader to Visit Japan

TOKYO — Fidel Castro will pay his first visit to Japan on Tuesday, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said. The Cuban president will make a one-night stop in

Tokyo on his way home from visits to China and Vietnam.

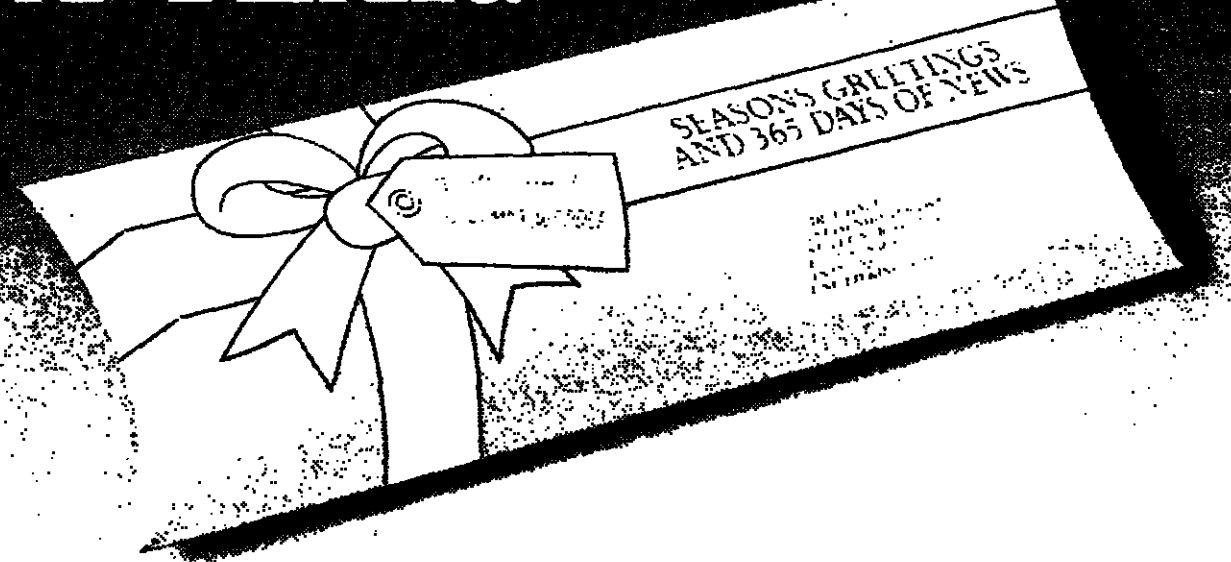
The Foreign Ministry said it was discussing with Cuban officials whether Mr. Castro will meet with any Japanese leaders. It released no other details.

VOICES From Asia

Raisuke Miyawaki, a former Japanese national police official: "Getting rid of bad loans by tinkering with accounting methods, glossing over balance sheets, so to speak, could lead to financial domination by the organized crime gangs, to a Mafia-controlled economy."

Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's financial secretary, warning China not to interfere in the economy of the British territory: "It is not for anyone, or for other people, to tell us exactly how we should spend our own money."

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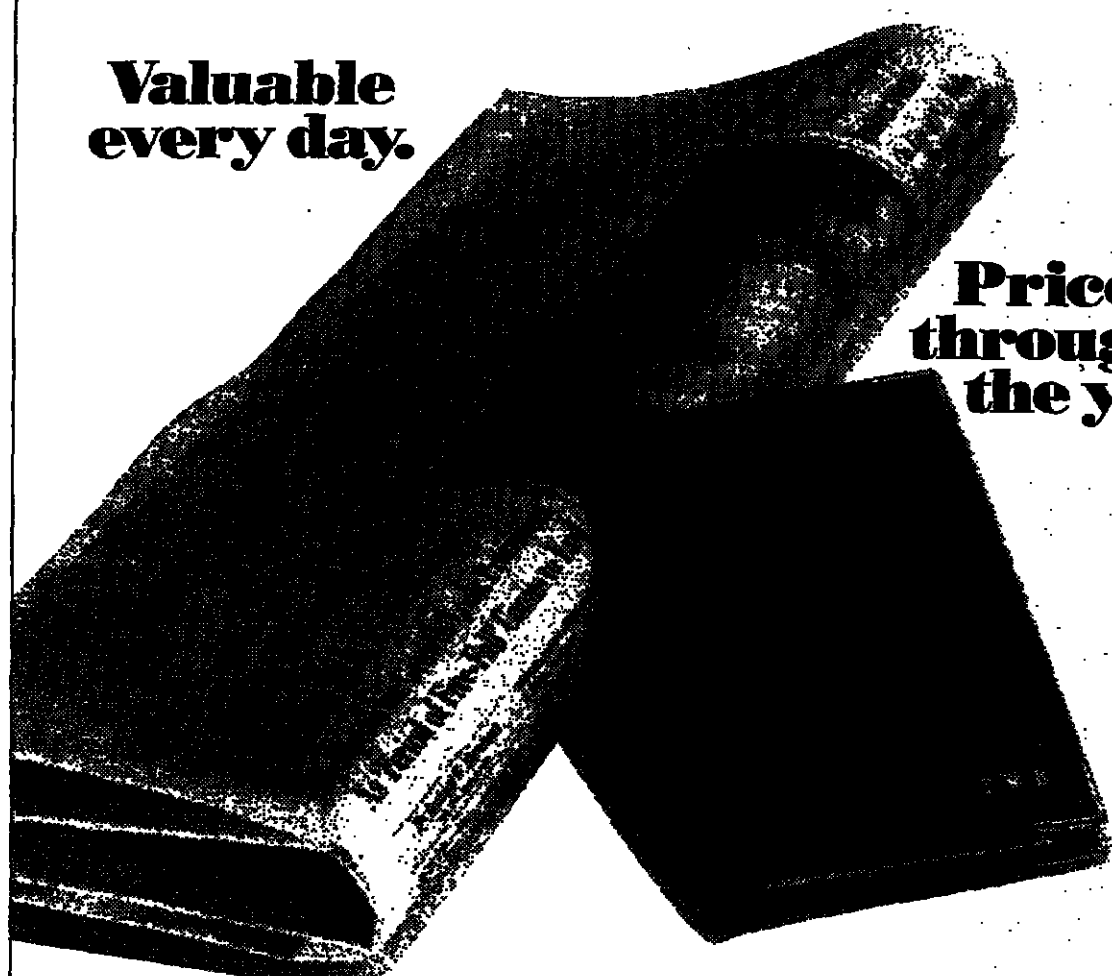
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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

12-12-95

EUROPE

EU's Internal Disputes Stall Membership Drive in East

By Tom Buertke
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — Eastern Europe's drive to enter the European Union is facing a serious delay because of increasingly divisive internal EU debates over monetary union, budgetary resources and reform of Union institutions, officials said Monday.

The result is that no more than two or three Eastern countries are likely to gain entry to the Union around the year 2000, which has been their target, officials said.

Most Eastern countries are likely to be waiting on the EU doorstep for years to come, they added, and even the first members will have to wait another decade after entry before sharing the Union's farm and development subsidies.

The waiting game has generated growing concern in the 10 countries of Central and Eastern Europe as their leaders prepare to meet with EU heads of government at the end of the Union's summit meeting in Madrid on Saturday.

"We regret the climate of reserve and delay," said Jan Kulakowski, Poland's ambassador to the Union.

The East's fears were driven home two weeks ago when Neil Kinnock, the EU transport commissioner, criticized the Union for "continually holding out the prospect of enlargement while not doing enough to make it really feasible."

Although Mr. Kinnock was rebuffed for his candid assessment, many EU officials share his concern that the bloc has failed to show how it will make enlargement work and who will pay the bill.

Enlargement also appears to be fading as a priority because of EU divisions over an intergovernmental reform conference starting in March. The conference's chief goal is to make the bloc capable of accepting new members, but a reflection group of national appointees last week reported little consensus on the necessary changes, like majority voting. "Europe is facing the most-

complex series of challenges since its inception," said Hans van den Broek, the EU commissioner for external affairs. Europe needs to resolve the internal divisions that prevented its 15 members from responding to the Bosnian conflict because "these shortcomings will show even more clearly when we are 25 or 30," he said.

The political struggle this fall over the terms of monetary union also illustrates that the Union remains too preoccupied with carrying out past commitments to embark on bold new ones, officials said.

For all these reasons, officials predicted that EU leaders would not make any new commitments to the East at the summit meeting in Madrid even though Felipe González, the Spanish prime minister who will chair the meeting, urged his colleagues last month to open membership talks six months after the conclusion of the Union's intergovernmental conference.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, the leading advocate of EU enlargement, ruled out

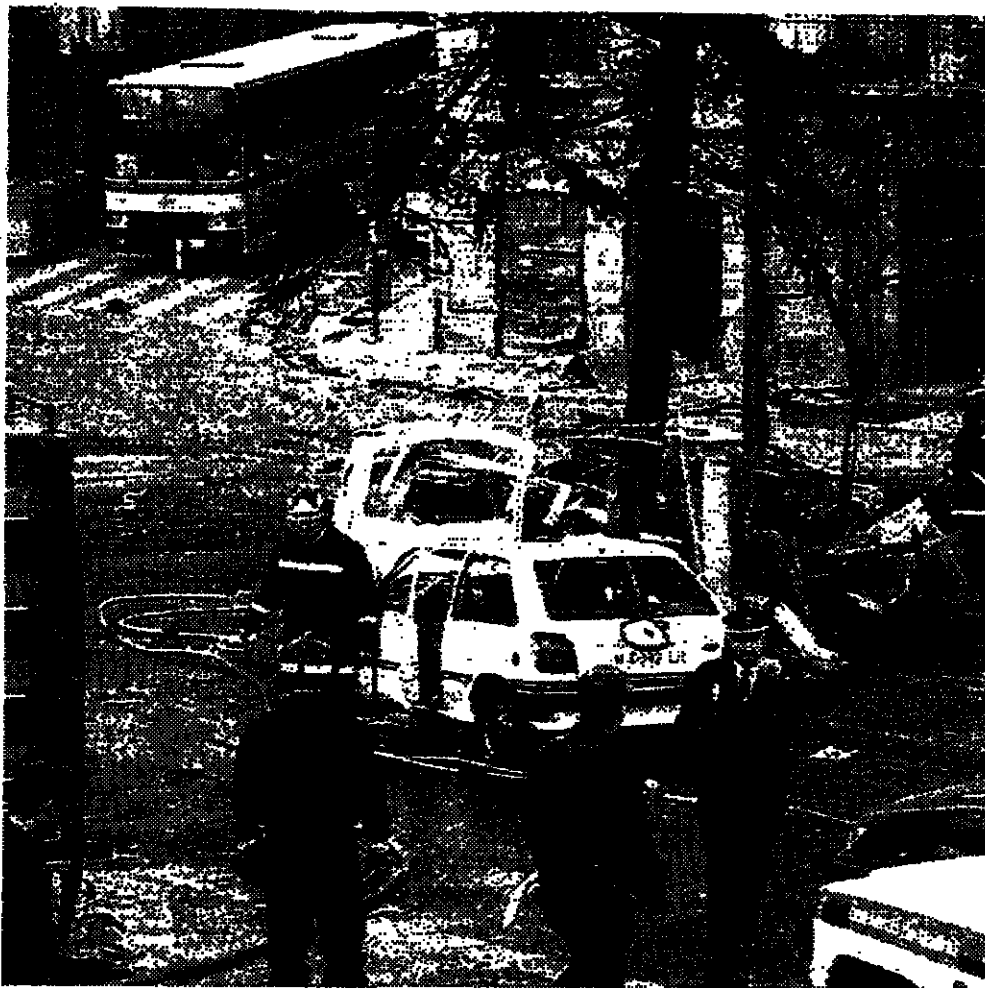
setting a date in a speech to the German Parliament last week. He also gave his clearest indication yet that the first group of new members would be limited, by referring only to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

EU officials have been working to shift the onus for starting membership negotiations onto the Eastern countries themselves.

Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, said the agency must give an assessment of the state of economic and political reforms in each Eastern country before recommending when negotiations should start. "This shall not be a purely formal exercise," Mr. Santer said.

Mr. van den Broek said the commission would give its opinion within a few months of the end of the intergovernmental conference, and he predicted that negotiations would start soon after that for countries with a passing grade.

"We will not drag it out further than we feel is necessary," he said.



Police and fire fighters inspecting the site where the bomb exploded Monday in Madrid.

Car Bomb Kills 5 In Madrid, 4 Days Before EU Summit

MADRID — A car bomb blamed by officials on Basque separatists ripped through a busy Madrid district Monday, killing five people and wounding a dozen four days before European Union leaders are to gather in the Spanish capital.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the blast, which occurred minutes before 3 P.M. as a military truck drove past in a densely populated working-class southeastern neighborhood.

Some victims were civilians and others were military personnel, police said. Three of the wounded, including a child, were in critical condition.

The mayor of Madrid, José María Álvarez del Manzano, said the car bomb appeared to be the work of rebels of the Basque Homeland and Freedom Party, or ETA.

The explosion was bound to increase security concerns ahead of the regular semiannual

EU summit scheduled Friday and Saturday in Madrid.

Spain, the current holder of the bloc's rotating six-month presidency, will play host to heads of state and government leaders from the 15 EU countries.

The blast tore shutters off windows in nearby houses, witnesses said.

Victims' bodies lay on the pavement among the charred remains of cars. Plainclothes police picked through the debris, looking for clues.

Broken glass from an outpatients clinic and other buildings littered the streets in a 100-meter radius. The police cordoned off the area, and officers with sniffer dogs checked other cars, looking for more explosives.

The attack was the most serious since April, when Basque ETA separatists tried to kill the leader of the main opposition center-right Popular Party, José María Aznar.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Turkish Party Urges EU to Delay Action

ANKARA — The pro-Islamic Welfare Party, expected by many to emerge as Turkey's largest party in the general election on Dec. 24, urged the European Parliament on Monday not to ratify Ankara's planned customs union with the European Union.

"The European Parliament should delay a move on the customs union until a true political power appears in Turkey in line with the people's choice in the elections," said Abdullah Gül, the Welfare Party's deputy chairman on foreign affairs.

He said the government of Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, the staunch supporter of a customs union with the European Union, had no power to represent the Turkish people only two weeks before the elections. "This is not hostility to Europe, just an economic choice," he said. (AFP)

Post Office Bombed In Southern Austria

VIENNA — A letter-bomb exploded in a post office in Graz, southern Austria, on Monday in what security officials warned could be the start of a fifth wave of racist attacks in a violent two-year-old campaign.

"Of course, we have to assume there will be further letter-bombs, and in this context we are issuing a warning," said Robert Sturm, chief of the bombs unit at the Interior Ministry.

No one was wounded in the blast on Monday morning. (Reuters)

Low Turnout Marks Ukraine Elections

KIEV — Only seven candidates mustered enough votes to gain entry into Parliament in runoff elections to fill 45 empty seats in the legislature, the

head of the Electoral Committee said Monday.

Ivan Yemets said that there was widespread voter apathy and that the turnout was less than the required 50 percent in 27 of 45 districts where balloting took place Sunday.

In the remaining 18 districts, only seven candidates got the required 50 percent majority needed to win a parliamentary seat.

Runoff elections will be held in two weeks between the two top vote-getters in the remaining 11 districts with adequate turnout, Mr. Yemets said. An election date for the other districts was not announced. (AP)

Refugee Housing Burns in Germany

HAFFKRUG, Germany — Five people were missing and believed dead, and at least four were injured, after a fire burned through a center for refugees of former Yugoslavia, the police said.

Fire crews were still working Monday to extinguish the blaze in this far-north German city near Kiel. The cause was being investigated. (Reuters)

Calendar

European Union events scheduled for Tuesday:

STRASBOURG: Former Italian Prime Minister Carlo Ciampi presents his report on European competitiveness.

MADRID: Economic and social affairs committees of EU member states meet with representatives of countries of the Mediterranean region.

FRANKFURT: EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Union Yves-Thibault de Silguy will address the European Monetary Union committee. Sources: Agence Europe, AFP

Belarus Voters Reject a Too-Bossy Boss

By James Rupert
Washington Post Service

MINSK, Belarus — The voters of Belarus have handed their authoritarian president a political defeat in his campaign to dissolve the legislature and strengthen his one-man rule here.

President Alexander Lukashenko had encouraged voters to boycott elections Sunday that sought to provide the Belarus legislature with the quorum it has lacked for the last six months. He had vowed to scrap the legislature and rule by decree if the voters' turnout was less than the 50 percent required by law to make any election here valid.

Mr. Lukashenko restricted campaigning and voter information in an effort to help suppress the turnout, but election officials said that more than 52 percent of Belarusians had voted on Sunday, electing more than enough new lawmakers to give the legislature a quorum.

Amid widespread apathy and Mr. Lukashenko's restrictions on campaigning, the election on Sunday was almost hidden. Television and radio ignored it most of the day. The only hints

were a steady trickle of people arriving at polling places.

Among the European former Soviet republics, many presidents — notably in Ukraine, Russia and Moldova — are pressing for increased powers in the face of economic crisis and political malaise.

But none have gone as far as Mr. Lukashenko in his drive for power. He has defied rulings of the Constitutional Court, decreed a ban on many labor union activities, seized direct control of the state-owned media and halted the printing of independent newspapers.

Last spring, Mr. Lukashenko asked the legislature, which is still called the Supreme Soviet, to disband "voluntarily." It refused. He permitted legislative elections in May, but scorned the candidates as incompetent, barred campaigning on television and told voters to boycott the polling.

His efforts to suppress voting have combined with broad public frustration with politics to hamper the election of a new Supreme Soviet.

Of 260 seats, only 119 were filled in May, leaving the Supreme Soviet far short of its quorum of 174 members. Voting

in November elected 20 new deputies and Sunday's poll elected 59 more, officials said Monday, giving the Supreme Soviet 198 members.

In the first round of the special elections, Nov. 29, Mr. Lukashenko showed up at his polling place and proclaimed all the candidates incompetent.

"These people must not be allowed to direct state affairs, and I have no right to ask people to vote for them," he said. "This is the last parliamentary vote in this country for the next five years," he said. "I'm not going to waste any more billions of people's money for some stupid elections ignored by the people."

Mostly, Mr. Lukashenko has sought to stifle information about the elections. He barred candidates from spending more than the equivalent of \$50 on their campaigns, a sum that has helped limit electioneering to a few posters and handbills. State television and radio have virtually ignored the elections.

Last week, after the Supreme Soviet's speaker, Mechislav Hrib, got Russian television channels to prepare election programs that would be seen in Belarus, authorities here

switched those channels off the air for what they said were repairs to a transmitter. At the same time, Belarusian state television announced the screening of six movies — an unheard-of entertainment bonanza here — during voting hours.

Still, Mr. Lukashenko has not moved to halt the elections outright. At times, he has denied wanting to hinder the Supreme Soviet.

Mr. Lukashenko's efforts to promote voter absenteeism have been helped by the state of Belarusian politics. Belarus lacks the strong ethnic identity, anti-Russian constituency and independence movement that have built political parties in neighboring Baltic states and Ukraine.

Politics remains more Soviet in style than in the rest of the European ex-Soviet Union.

"Two-thirds of our candidates have no concept that they, themselves, must motivate people to vote for them," said Mr. Abramovich. "Unlike American candidates, who go out and shake people's hands, they think it's enough to put a few fliers in mailboxes and hold a few meetings."

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INTERNATIONAL

Soldiers by Day, White Supremacists by Night

By Serge F. Kovaleski
Washington Post Service

FAYETTEVILLE, North Carolina — By day, the two soldiers were standard U.S. Army fatigues bearing what is known as the "All American" patch of the elite 82d Airborne Division of Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

By night, they donned the black boots and white laces, red suspenders, flight jackets and chains that make up an official uniform signifying white power and became part of a subterranean culture of white supremacist skinheads. They hung out at private underground nightclubs.

Such were the lives of the U.S. Army privates, James Norman Burmeister 24, 20, and Malcolm Wright, 21, the two main suspects in the racially motivated shooting of a black man and woman last week that has shocked this army town. Police officers described the men as unremorseful, even stung.

A third suspect and soldier, Randy Lee Meadows Jr., 21, who is considered to be less strident in his views than his two companions, has been charged with driving the car that the killers used. He is

cooperating with investigators, sources said.

They also said that in the hours leading up to the slaying, the three soldiers were drinking at a popular local strip bar, the Cue and Ale.

The discovery of a large Nazi flag draped on the wall of a room rented by Private Burmeister in a mobile home near the base, as well as a gallery of white supremacist literature and pamphlets about Hitler and the Third Reich, has prompted the 82d Airborne to begin an investigation into whether extremist organizations exist in its ranks, military officials said. Participation by soldiers in such groups is prohibited and punishable by expulsion.

Human-rights groups said that there had long been widespread white supremacist activity at Fort Bragg. The Southern Poverty Law Center, for example, while investigating a far-right group in North Carolina in the late 1980s, discovered that several soldiers from Fort Bragg had been recruited into the group.

There is a large skinhead presence in this town because of the types of people stationed at Fort Bragg," said

Bob Smynter, owner of the Purgatory private bar, which is the main night spot for skinheads and other white supremacists here. "This is not a normal town."

Law enforcement authorities said that the suspects in the slayings last week were not affiliated with a larger white supremacist organization or movement, but that at least Private Burmeister and Private Wright appeared to be deeply embedded in the informal network of skinheads and other extremists that is active at the base.

Most of their activity revolves around a circuit of private clubs where extremists drink and listen to music. Private Burmeister and Private Wright, regulars at Purgatory, were often seen in skinhead garb. Acquaintances said Private Burmeister sometimes wore a swastika patch on his black bomber jacket.

But while condemning the murders, some Fort Bragg soldiers said they espoused the suspects' supremacist views.

"The mixing of races is dead wrong, whether it's in the army or anywhere else," a private, who would only identify himself as Lance, said while walking into the private Neo Nightclub,

which is known as a popular venue for some extremists. "Popping that black couple was wrong, but praising a Nazi flag is not."

Law enforcement sources said Private Burmeister rented his room in a mobile home from a couple who described themselves publicly as white separatists.

They were away on a trip when Private Burmeister and Private Wright were arrested at the home last Thursday. Authorities found a handgun in the mobile home that they believe was the weapon used in the slayings.

Michael James, 36, and a friend, Jackie Burden, 27, were fatally shot as they strolled down an unlighted street in their neighborhood near downtown early Thursday morning.

According to police sources, Private Burmeister and Private Wright apparently picked Mr. James and Miss Burden at random and approached the couple on foot.

Private Burmeister allegedly fired five shots at close range, hitting both victims in the head. Private Meadows was around the corner in the car, sitting in his car, sources said.



SQUARE PEG IN A ROUND HOLE — Fidel Castro adjusting his 'Vietcong cap' after failing to fit into the tunnels from which Vietcong forces attacked Saigon.

BOOKS

MISS AMERICA

By Howard Stern. 482 pages.
\$27.50. Regan Books.Reviewed by
Richard Bernstein

GIVEN that Howard Stern's new book has had the best early sale of just about any book in history, reading it ought, almost by definition, to put you in touch with the pop-cult Zeitgeist. It is always interesting to know what turns people on. Reading "Miss America" might also put you through several stages of reactions that cover the spectrum from pleasure to revulsion.

The first thing experienced in the radio talk-show host's writing is a mild titillation, then amusement accompanied by the sound of taboos being smashed, pretensions ripped apart. Here and there, if you can take what the movie ratings people call coarse language, you will laugh out loud at Stern's antic audacity, though the laughter may be guilty because the humor is cruel. By the middle of the book, a sporadic tedium sets in as you see that Stern reuses verbal gimmicks,

quite literally, ad nauseum. The modulation in this book comes in its very creative tabloid graphics, its arrangements of photographs and different-size typefaces. Stern maintains throughout an unvarying tone of profane astonishment at the hypocrisy, greed and stupidity that surround him, and that tone eventually becomes monotonous. Finally there is a kind of shock, a revelation at the aggressiveness of Stern's display of spittlefulness and triumphalism.

Howard Stern must have been a quick, mean kid, the kind who sniggered a lot at the discomfort of others. The evidence of "Miss America" is that he remains a quick, mean kid, or at least that he understands how his personal fortune is dependent on maintaining that image. The story is told that the Austrian emperor, upon being snubbed by Beethoven, said that there had to be such people. Stern is no Beethoven, but there is no denying his brilliance at what he does: which is utterly to defy convention and the normal rules of politesse, especially by making you burst out in derisive laughter at the expense of other people, some of whom (but not all of

whom) may even deserve it. But Stern, at least in the early stages of "Miss America," dismisses you by directing some of his sharpest barbs against himself. "I'm such a superficial piece of garbage," he admits, daring you to take this accurate self-description seriously. "My entire career has consisted of toilet-bowl radio stations at the bottom of the barrel that have come to me when their ratings have disappeared and they needed a nuclear bomb in mornings to jumpstart their pathetic operations."

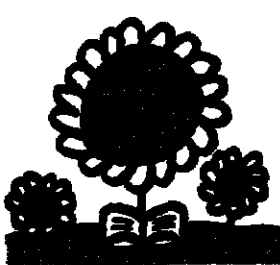
Statements like that one (most of what Stern writes is laced with obscenities) are important elements in his enormous underground celebrity. Stern's most bankable qualities are his honesty and his regular-guy standing. The stage of titillation in reading "Miss America" comes as he describes his own ravenous sexuality. The strongest revulsion comes in his account of how, in winning the ratings wars against a competitor in Philadelphia, Stern was driven not just to win but utterly to destroy his competitor, to humiliate him and ruin his life. Most people do not give vent

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• Jeff Rosenberg, senior producer at National Public Radio, is reading: "Van Gogh's Room at Arles," by Stanley Elkin.

"A wonderful tour de force. It's Elkin at his best. And it's the right length."

(Iris Gersten, IHT)



to all of the thoughts that run through their minds or all the things that they do as they deal with quotidian eroticism. "Miss America" in this sense reads like excerpts from the fantasies of sex and aggression that might be published in a psychiatric association textbook. As long as there are only a very few people who trade in that currency, and as long as those few do it well, it can be funny and cathartic. Stern is funny and cathartic.

For the most part, Stern merely writes about himself. He knows that he has a throng of worshipful listeners of his syn-

dedicated morning radio show, and he is unabashed in his assumption that they want the program in easy-to-digest book form. Stern in short has become a kind of deity, the mention of whose name brings glory to his acolytes. This is a new twist in the celebrity culture. Other people achieve godlike status because of their association with beauty, wealth or power. Stern has achieved his because he rationally legitimizes the dark side, the anarchic impulse, the savage beast in us all.

Richard Bernstein is on the staff of The New York Times.

CHESS

By Robert Byrne

VLADIMIR Kramnik beat Rafael Vaganian in the Credit Suisse Masters International Tournament.

Against the Queen's Indian Defense, Kramnik considered it so important to prevent a possible pin, as could arise after 4 Nc3 Bb4, that he paused for the prophylactic 4 a3.

Vaganian's 5...Ne4 followed a standard plan to make Black's defense easier by exchanging a set of minor pieces.

Vaganian did not want to further his opponent's development with 8...Bd3 9 Qd3, but his alternative, 8...d5, let Kramnik weaken his pawn structure with 9 Be4 de.

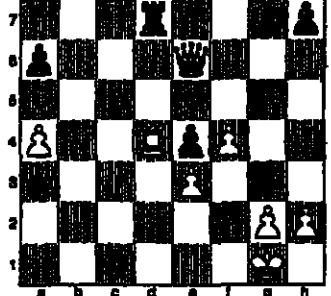
On Vaganian's 11...Bd6, which resisted the white attack on the center with 11 f3, Kramnik avoided any unpleasantness arising from 12 f4? Qh4 by shifting his attack to the queen-side with 12 Qe4!?

Vaganian's 13...Qh4 forced Kramnik to end his center attack with 14 f4, but after 14...O-O, Kramnik offered a nice speculative pawn sacrifice with 15 c5! The point was that after

15...bc 16 Nc4 Qe7 17 dc Bc5 18 b4 Bd6 19 Bb2! Bc7 20 Rfd1, he had strong positional pressure and Vaganian was having trouble getting his knight out.

Kramnik could have retrieved his pawn with 24 Nb6 ab 25 Qb6, but Black could still

After 27...Ra7, Kramnik bored in with 28 Nd6!, and after 28...Rd7 29 Rc8! Rc8 30 Nc8 Qa3, he smashed through with 31 Qe6! Kf8 32 Qf5 Kc8 33 Qe6 Kd8 34 Qb6! Qb6! Kc8 35 Rc4 Nc6 36 Rc6 leads to mate) 35 Nd6, and Vaganian gave up. On 35...Ke7, there could have followed 36 Re4 Kf6 37 Qd4 Kg6 38 Re6 Kh5 39 Qe5 Kh4 40 Qg5 mate.



Position after 23...Kd6

fight with 25...Ra7. Instead, he kept up the pressure with 24 e4, and after 24...Bc5 he got rid of the most active black piece with 25 Bd4 Bd4 26 Rd4. Had Vaganian tried 26...Rc8, then 27 Rcd1 Nc6 28 Rd7 Qe8

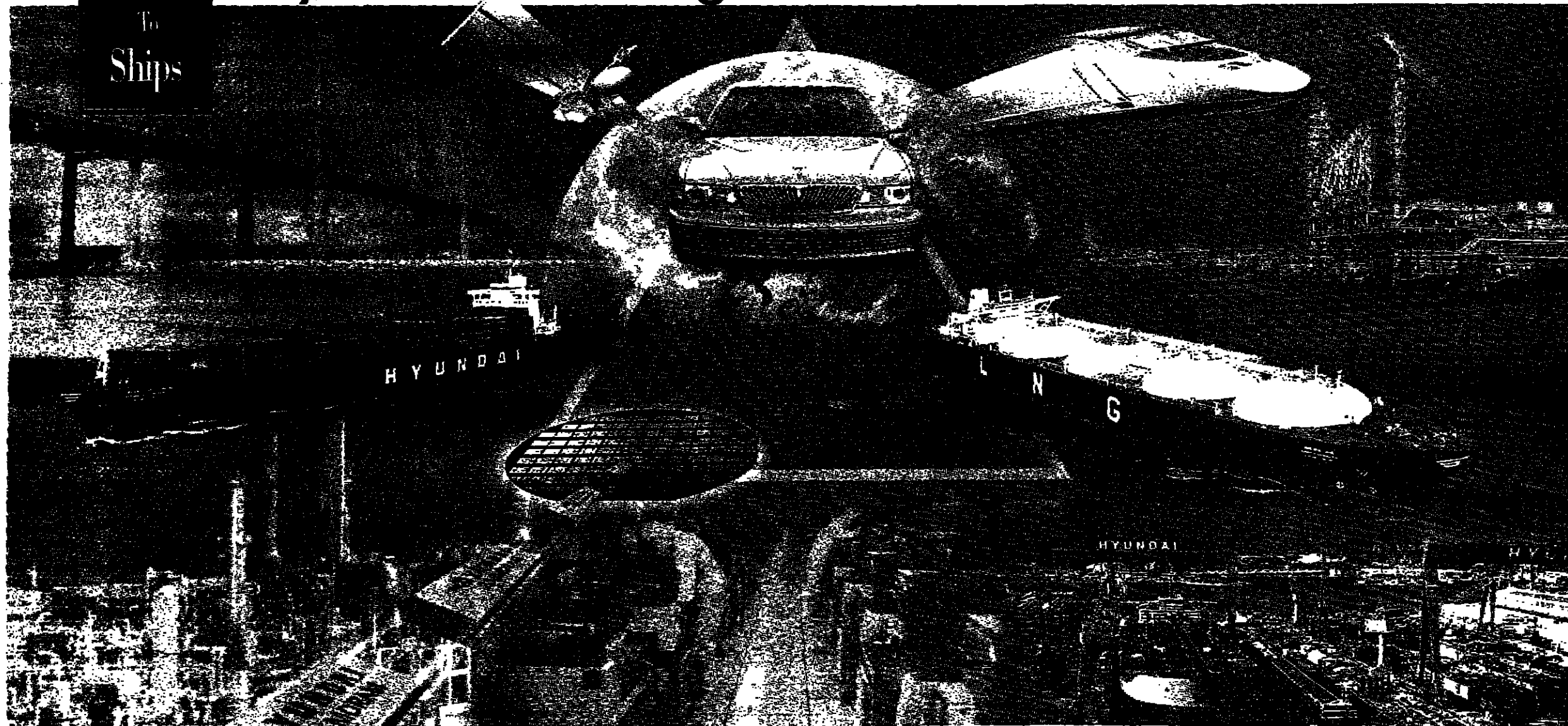
(28...Qb4 29.Nd6! Qb5 30 ab Nb8 31 Nc8 Nd7 32 Ne7 wins a piece) 29 Qb7 Rab8 30 Rg7 Kf8 31 Qd7 Rd8 32 Qe8 Kc8 33 Nd6 Kf8 34 Rh7 puts White a pawn ahead with the seventh rank.

On 35...Ke7, there could have followed 36 Re4 Kf6 37 Qd4 Kg6 38 Re6 Kh5 39 Qe5 Kh4 40 Qg5 mate.

QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENSE			
White	Black	White	Black
Kramnik	Vaganian	Kramnik	Vaganian
1 Nf3	Nf6	18 Bc5	Rd8
2 d4	d5	19 Bb2	Bc7
3 c4	b5	20 Rd1	Qc7
4 e4	Bb7	21 b3	Qb6
5 Nc3	Ne4	22 Rcd1	Qe7
6 Bc4	Bd6	23 Qe4	Rd7
7 a3	Rd7	24 e4	Bc5
8 Bb2	Qe7	25 Bd4	Bd4
9 Qd3	Qh4	26 Rd4	Rc8
10 Nc2	Qe8	27 Rcd1	Nc6
11 f3	Bc5	28 Rd7	Qe8
12 Qe4	O-O	29 Qb7	Rab8
13 Qh4	O-O	30 Rg7	Kf8
14 f4	O-O	31 Qd7	Rd8
15 c5	O-O	32 Qe8	Kc8
16 Nc4	Qe7	33 Nd6	Kf8
17 de6	Kc5	34 Rh7	Qb6
		35 Ke7	Ke7

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INTERNATIONAL

Berlusconi in the Manger? For Naples Crèche-Makers, Political Satire Pays

By Daniel Williams
Washington Post Service

NAPLES — Think about how this would look mingled among the angels, shepherds and wise men of a typical Christmas crèche: a mechanized model of the former leader of Italy's old Communist Party dressed up as an executioner, pounding the severed head of a separatist politician with a hammer.

Or how about a smiling Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian television magnate and former prime minister, bringing a gift of bribes? Or Antonio Bassolino, the popular mayor of Naples, presented saint-like with an electric halo around his head?

Playing on an old tradition in

Naples, home of the most flamboyant manger scenes in Christendom, craftsmen add contemporary satirized figures to the cast of characters that make up Neapolitan crèches, which in their baroque glory always have gone well beyond the core Christmas tale.

Naples is the only place in Italy that has a strong Christmas tradition, outside of just feasting. Some Italians have adopted the Christmas tree, but that's a German import, like stable currency (something that has yet to catch on).

In Naples, crèches, called *presepe*, are displayed in homes and churches. They celebrate not only the biblical event, but Neapolitan life as well. For centuries, Neapolitans have fashioned elaborate settings for the Christmas scene and artistic figurines to populate them.

Forget about Bethlehem; the buildings, costumes and daily life portrayed are Naples, usually of the 17th and 18th centuries. Public crèches were used to communicate to the king the state of the city, showing its commerce, festivals, poverty and crime.

Of course, the Holy Family is generally enshrined somewhere in the crèche, maybe in Middle East costume. But just about everything and everyone else are Italian. There can be hundreds of characters.

The shepherds play an Italian bagpipe. Ragged men sell ricotta from pots, old women play a Neapolitan

card game, and masked carnival characters frolic in the street. A vintner delivers barrels of wine to a trattoria, fishermen in typical Neapolitan caps sew nets, a priest begs alms and a royal bride parades by in a palanquin borne by Moorish servants. Laundry, garlic, pans, peppers and children hang from balconies.

In the old days, it was customary to fashion the faces after real people. "People took pride in having visitors view their crèche and say, 'Hey, there's Guido, the butcher,' or 'Look, there's Antonio, the tailor,'" said Pasquale Lofredo, a second-generation maker of *pastori*, the generic name for the figures.

After World War II, contempo-

rary figures began to infiltrate the crèche, actors and actresses in particular. A favorite is Antonio de Curtis, whose movie name was Toto. Sophia Loren, also a Neapolitan, appears sometimes. So do writers and artists.

Politicians began to make the scene three years ago with the national campaign against corruption.

Known as "Operation Clean Hands," the prosecutions ended four decades of Christian Democratic political dominance and brought a new generation of politicians to the fore. These have provided models for the new wave of crèche characters.

Pasquale Lofredo, in the vanguard of the satirical movement, calls his

store the "Clean Hands Presepe Shop." It is on narrow San Gregorio Armeno Street, which since beyond memory has been the home of crèche-makers. At this time of year, it is flooded by Neapolitans as well as other Italians who have traveled from far and wide to buy not only figures but also the raw materials to build the scenery.

During the first year of Clean Hands, Mr. Lofredo and other artisans fashioned statuettes to represent Antonio DiPietro, the lead prosecutor and hero to many Italians. Mr. DiPietro sold like hot cakes, or rather, like pizza Margherita.

Mr. Berlusconi, who won 1994 national elections, became another

popular figure, although, since his fall from power last December, and with charges of corruption hanging over his head, sales have slackened. Mr. Lofredo tried to carve a figure to represent the current prime minister, Lamberto Dini, but has yet to get it right.

"It keeps coming out looking like Berlusconi," he says mischievously.

Some artisans are uncomfortable with insertion of contemporary figures in the crèche. "It was bad enough when Romans came down and started ordering us to make ruins so that their crèches would look like Rome and not Naples," said Antonio Capuano. "Now anything goes."



Prime Minister Peres and President Clinton conferring Monday at the White House.

U.S. Will Press Syria on Talks

Christopher Trip Set as Clinton Sees Peres

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton said Monday he was sending Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher to the Middle East to revive the peace talks between Israel and Syria.

Mr. Clinton made the announcement after talks at the White House with the Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres. He said he had also talked by telephone with President Hafez Assad of Syria.

Mr. Christopher was to leave Thursday for the Middle East after attending the signing of the Bosnia peace accord in Paris with Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Clinton said he wanted to continue a strong partnership with Israel and promote peace in the region.

Mr. Peres praised the president for what he called a very moving statement last month in Jerusalem at the funeral of his assassinated predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin.

In June, Syria suspended talks with Israel in Washington. A key issue was security arrangements on the Golan Heights in the event of an Israeli pullback.

In the nearly six weeks since Mr. Rabin was slain by an opponent of his territorial concessions, Mr. Peres has stressed a determination to continue the policy of swapping land for promises of peace.

Syria has appeared more receptive, but over the weekend demanded a clear statement from Israel that it would surrender all the land Syria lost in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Mr. Peres, a key architect of Mr. Rabin's land-for-peace strategy, apparently is holding back from making a public declaration that he will comply in order to extract maximum security and diplomatic gains.

In Jerusalem, the chief Israeli negotiator, Itamar Rabinovich, said Israel was ready to make significant concessions to the Syrians in exchange for a peace treaty.

But Mr. Rabinovich said that the Peres government "won't

be ready to give the details before it understands in a very exact manner what Syria is ready to give in a possible deal or agreement." (Reuters, AP)

■ Homage to Rabin

More than 15,000 people filled Madison Square Garden for a display of unity aimed at honoring Mr. Rabin and healing the breach in world Jewry that his murder has opened between friends and foes of the Middle East peace process. The Washington Post reported from New York.

"When you have two views, you don't have to become two

peoples," Mr. Peres told the crowd Sunday. "We're one people. May I suggest that there be unity among those for and against the peace process, but also against murder, violence and curses. Let us argue, but not hate."

He was joined by Vice President Al Gore; Mr. Rabin's widow, Leah; Israel's chief rabbi, Yisrael Lau, and leaders of several secular and religious American Jewish groups.

All lamented how Prime Minister Rabin had been murdered while striving to achieve peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Friction With China

Friction between China and the United States is likely to rise in the coming year, and the fundamental cause will be neither trade nor arms sales. The cause will be democracy and China's hostility to it as it is developing in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

China considers both Taiwan and Hong Kong to be Chinese, and it wants them back. Britain, which has ruled Hong Kong as a colony for a century and a half, has agreed to return it in July 1997. Over the vehement objections of the Chinese government, Hong Kong held legislative elections in September, and the pro-Beijing candidates were soundly defeated. Beijing, in response, is now organizing its own shadow government for Hong Kong, with the apparent intention of pushing the present structure aside. China's rulers seem to assume that, in the United States, the interests of businesses in having access to the Chinese market will outweigh any concerns that Americans might have about the suppression of the rights of Hong Kong's people. That assumption may well prove wrong. It would be a profound reproach to the United States if it did not.

As Taiwan evolves from the harshly authoritarian state of the past into a genuine democracy, reunification with the mainland becomes increasingly implausible. Taiwan elected its legislature ear-

lier this month and is to elect its president, for the first time, in March. One party has, in the past, openly supported a declaration of independence from China, and China has replied with threats of military invasion. Under these circumstances, any explicit act of secession is unlikely. But the Taiwanese will certainly continue to press for the kind of diplomatic gestures that hint at a separate and independent status, and they will certainly continue to enjoy widespread support in the United States.

It was support from both parties in Congress that finally forced the Clinton administration to issue President Lee Teng-hui the visa that allowed him to attend a Cornell University reunion last spring. The visa enraged the Chinese government, but it is hard to believe that there won't be similar incidents ahead — or that there shouldn't be.

Many of the people running China believe that the United States is simply maneuvering to hamper the re-emergence of China as a great world power and a rival. That is too shallow. The reality is that most Americans believe in democracy as a matter of faith, and that when a foreign government moves to suppress democracy, there is generally an American reaction.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Keep the Mission Simple

With only days to go before the formal signing of the Bosnian peace agreement, congressional approval for the dispatch of American troops to supervise the peace is needlessly snagged over two issues. Critics of the administration's troop proposal, mainly conservative Republicans, question whether the administration has a reasonable strategy for ending the mission and withdrawing forces. Beyond that, they ask whether Washington should supplement the peacekeeping operation, or even replace it, with a major American effort to arm and train the Bosnian army.

The best way to assure that the peacekeeping mission ends successfully and on time is to keep it simple, as the administration has proposed. The Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, who has honorably set aside partisan interest to support the operation, should resist pressure to load up his authorizing resolution with all sorts of conditions, even if that means relying on Democratic votes for passage.

President Bill Clinton proposes sending 20,000 Americans as part of a sizable NATO fighting force, amply capable of defending itself but with strictly limited objectives. It would oversee the territorial divisions agreed to at Dayton by the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia, keeping rival forces at bay for 12 months in order to give civilians and political leaders a chance to rebuild Bosnian society and set it on the path of peace.

There is no guarantee or even assumption that Bosnia can be fully pacified and transformed within this 12-month period.

Whether that ultimately happens will depend mainly on the behavior of the peoples of Bosnia. The international military force is intended merely to provide a cooling off period so that the transformation from war to peace can begin.

Achieving greater equality between the heavily armed Serbian and Croatian forces and their underarmed Bosnian counterparts would clearly help preserve peace over the longer term. But linking this goal too closely to the American peacekeeping force would be a dangerous mistake. Mandating that the American troops arm and train the Bosnians would endanger the Americans by compromising their neutrality.

There are other ways to address the military imbalance. Serbian and Croatian arms levels could be negotiated downward in exchange for economic and diplomatic incentives, rather than building up arms levels all around. Failing that, a separate multinational effort could be undertaken to arm and train Bosnian forces without directly involving American peacekeeping troops.

If it is understood that the peacekeepers are being sent to give Bosnia a fair start on a peaceful future, not to see the process all the way through to a guaranteed ending, withdrawing NATO forces at the end of 12 months should be relatively straightforward.

It is important for Congress to act before the NATO mission begins in earnest next week. There is no real justification for further delay.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

All the Way to Jupiter

Its main antenna is broken. Because of launch delays and reductions in the power of the rocket that hurled it toward Jupiter, the spacecraft had to take a circuitous, 3.7-billion-kilometer journey. But right on its revised schedule Galileo arrived last week and settled into orbit around the giant planet. A small probe that had hitched a ride to Jupiter on Galileo pierced the planet's gaseous atmosphere on Thursday. Scientists who had worked for 18 years to send a tiny mechanical messenger from Earth to Jupiter were justifiably proud. "This is really neat," one said.

The moment did not match in drama the first steps of Neil Armstrong on the moon, but it was another milestone for the American space program, hobbled in recent years by budget cuts and technical setbacks. Like Apollo 13, which was saved by Ruben Goldberg repairs, Galileo was kept alive by its earthbound minders, who fiddled with software, cobbling together programs that allow data to be transmitted through a small, secondary antenna.

Sophisticated late-20th-century humans know better, of course, but it is tempting to assign some strange sort of altruism to Galileo's tiny probe, bound for certain destruction by heat, pressure and certain Jovian torments, which used its last corporeal moments to send back the first recordings of an atmosphere that scientists guess to be full of hurricane-force winds, ammonia-crystal clouds, lightning and infernal temperatures, before being vaporized and disappearing forever in the gassy depths.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

Aircraft Without Flags

Can Brussels succeed where the British and Americans have failed? The argument for keeping the commission out of aviation talks used to be that the Europeans would move at the speed of their slowest members, notably of "olive belt" countries such as France, Italy and Spain that were determined to protect their loss-making state airlines from the competition that might destroy them. But the balance of the argument, and of power, may now be shifting inside Western Europe. These same governments have allowed Brussels to liberalize the Union's internal aviation market; from

1997 fully open skies will prevail inside the Union, and Europe's air fares should accordingly start to fall. This is potentially the thin end of a wonderful wedge that will win many more converts to the cause of deregulation. The olive belt, moreover, must soon begin to tire of bailing out loss-making airlines.

The process will not be complete until the open skies extend over the Atlantic as well. This is because airlines make most of their money on long-haul flights. In a European-American free-aviation area, anyone could fly from anywhere, subject to buying a slot at an airport. It is time to take the flags off aircraft's tails.

—THE ECONOMIST.

For Preventive Action Against Man-Made Disaster

By J. Brian Atwood

WASHINGTON — A disaster relief staffer at the U.S. Agency for International Development commented recently, "Wouldn't it be a simple earthquake be a change of pace?"

It is not surprising that many relief workers find themselves almost nostalgic for a simple natural disaster. Certainly a typhoon or a volcano would be easier to deal with than the protracted civil wars and bitter ethnic conflicts that have erupted around the globe. Floods don't last for years, or take hostages. Mud slides don't commit genocide. Cyclones don't demand peacekeepers.

In the field of humanitarian relief, these have been difficult times. Civil wars and imploded nations like Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Liberia have replaced natural disasters as the main worry of those who bring comfort to the people most in need.

The U.S. government and European governments have always been generous in lending a helping hand to the victims of disaster around the globe, but that job is getting harder than ever before.

Statistics bear painful witness to the travails of trying to staunch the bleeding from the proliferation of man-made crises. In 1990 there were approximately 2 million refugees around the world. Today there are more than 17 million.

Add to that some 27 million people displaced within their own countries, and it is small wonder that the international community is collectively drowning in a sea of unprecedented need.

This new generation of crises has some notable common traits. They have been driven by weak and corrupt government institutions, unsustainable population growth, deteriorating environmental conditions, food insecurity and abject poverty. We know these things, yet we reduce spending on the development assistance that cures these ills while we increase spending on humanitarian emergencies.

This week in Madrid, officials from the European Union, the United States, international organizations and nongovernmental institutions are gathering to take a long, hard look at some basic realities facing humanitarians in a post-Cold War world. The humanitarian summit will consider issues important to all relief workers: laws governing the free passage of humanitarian assistance, the rights of civilians in conflict situations, and guarantees of the safety of humanitarian workers during crises.

The conference in Madrid is also im-

portant because it is taking a broader look at this new generation of crises. The humanitarian community has recognized that improving its ability to respond to disaster is no longer enough.

Civil strife and failed states produce most of the world's refugees and displaced persons. Most precursors to failed states are not natural disasters but man-made conditions. These conditions can be seen, they can be diagnosed and, indeed, they can be treated. These indicators of a nation in peril can be dealt with by collective, preventive international intervention.

The U.S. government has just completed a study which concludes that there is a strong correlation between a state's vulnerability to collapse and three indicators: high infant mortality rates; closed markets and restricted trade; fragile democratic institutions. Each of these indicators relates to the internal policies of governments, but they relate as well to the commitment of the international community to make available official development assistance.

Perhaps more than ever before, we have the tools and the foresight to stop man-made crises before they occur. We know that social and economic development will stabilize a society. This development is the best tool we have to help

keep nations from slipping to the point of no return.

International economic and social development programs — a main tool of crisis prevention — must focus on nations where the international community's political and economic interests are engaged, where need is apparent, and where these programs can be effective in a positive partnership with the host government and people. And diplomacy and development should be more effectively integrated to mobilize help when a country is vulnerable to collapse.

It is a terrible irony that at the moment when we are realizing that preventive diplomacy is our best hope, the international community is steadily decreasing its assistance to the most vulnerable nations. As legislatures in the United States and Europe look to squeeze budgets tighter, it is the preventive medicine of development that is placed lowest on the list of priorities.

The cost of this shortsighted approach will nonetheless be paid, not only by future generations but by ours as well.

The writer is administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development. He contributed this comment to the *International Herald Tribune*.

Prospects for Restoring the Rule of Law in Bosnia Are Not Good

By Anthony Lewis

WASHINGTON — NATO forces are going to Bosnia for a year to give peace a breathing space. The hope is that, in a year of ordinary life, the divided people of Bosnia will begin to value peace more than hatred or revenge. If that hope is to have a chance, a crucial necessity is the re-establishment of respect for law and humanity. And there the early signs are not encouraging.

The weeks since the Dayton peace agreement have seen worrying symptoms of disregard for its promises of justice. Bosnian Serbs have continued to carry out "ethnic cleansing" around Banja Luka, the principal city they hold in northern Bosnia.

The region was the site of some of the most brutal Serbian practices of murder and intimidation during the war. Most of the Muslims and Croats who survived have fled the Banja Luka area. Now the 12,000 who remain are being driven out of their homes, a few families every day, and their houses are being burned or turned over to Serbian refugees.

Bosnian Croats last week released a Croatian military officer who had been indicted by the International War Crimes Tribunal, Ivica Rajic. It was a brazen violation of a promise made at Dayton. Mr. Rajic was on trial for

murder in a local court. In Dayton, Croatian officials promised that after the trial, however it ended, he would be turned over to the International Tribunal. Last week he was acquitted by a Croatian judge — and released.

The action could hardly have been more contemptuous of Dayton. But then President Franjo Tudjman had earlier reacted to another officer's indictment for war crimes by giving him a more important assignment.

Croatian soldiers have been carrying out a scorched-earth policy in areas that Dayton requires them to leave and turn over to the Serbs. They are looting and burning villages.

A broader concern is raised by the appointment last week of Carl Bildt as the "high representative" to oversee the civilian side of implementing the Dayton agreements. Mr. Bildt, who is leader of the opposition in the Swedish Parliament, was the European Union's mediator in the last phase of the Bosnian conflict. As mediator, he had a reputation for truckling to the Bosnian Serb aggressors.

Mr. Bildt was criticized especially for what he did when the Serbs seized the supposed "safe

areas" of Srebrenica in July and then massacred as many as 6,000 civilians there. According to some reports, he opposed NATO air strikes to save Srebrenica. After the town fell, he announced that he had made a deal with the Bosnian Serb commander, Ratko Mladic, for Red Cross access to prisoners. No such access was ever given, and by all signs the "prisoners" were in fact dead.

That is why the recent events on the ground raise concern. A UN

promise of cooperation with the War Crimes Tribunal. That is so because unless the victims of the horror in Bosnia can see that individuals are being held responsible, they will attach guilt to groups — and the cycle of hate and revenge will go on.

The purpose of the Dayton agreement was to end the cycle of hate and revenge. It is too late for justice. Despite the pious promises of Dayton, the ethnically cleansed will not be returning. The killers, except for a random few, will go unpunished. Bosnia will lose half its territory to the Serbs. The Serbs of Sarajevo, in turn, will be turned over to the tender mercies of a hostile Muslim-dominated government.

There will be many heartrending televised scenes of injustice in the coming months. Refugees, for example, are sure to be refused passage home. There will be a great temptation for American

refugee official, Kris Janowski, said of the Serbian ethnic cleansing around Banja Luka: "The Dayton agreement hasn't stopped it... We will have the same bitterness and hostility in Bosnia, and the same Serb authorities who claim to be doing all they can to stop the crime but then do nothing."

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The Purpose Is Arming the Muslims

IT DOES not matter that America should not have gone into Bosnia in the first place. It now matters only that we succeed. The trick is to define success and then make sure that we achieve it.

Our purpose in Bosnia is not justice but mercy. It is too late for justice. Despite the pious promises of Dayton, the ethnically cleansed will not be returning. The killers, except for a random few, will go unpunished. Bosnia will lose half its territory to the Serbs. The Serbs of Sarajevo, in turn, will be turned over to the tender mercies of a hostile Muslim-dominated government.

There will be many heartrending televised scenes of injustice in the coming months. Refugees, for example, are sure to be refused passage home. There will be a great temptation for American

forces to set things right. The temptation must be resisted. Our purpose in Bosnia is not nation-building but arm-building. We really do not care about the political institutions of the new Bosnia. We care not a fig about the collective presidency, nor the constitutional court nor the central bank nor the ethnically partitioned Parliament. We like democracy, but we do not even care whether they have one.

We care about only one thing, but about this we should care a lot: leaving behind a Bosnian state that is capable of self-defense. And that means, during our year there, arming the Muslims, training them, and leaving behind as much of our own equipment as they will need to carry on when we depart.

—Charles Krauthammer, writing in *The Washington Post*.

With Republicans 'on the Run,' Democrats Are Cheerful Again

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — The Democrats have more bounce in their steps than they have had since the roof fell in on them 13 months ago. Rightly or wrongly, they think their chances of holding the White House and maybe even scoring a comeback in Congress are reviving.

It is no one thing but a combination of factors, all encouraging, that have replaced a year's worth of frowns with unfamiliar smiles. "I think the hemorrhaging stopped in August," said Senator Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut, the party's general chairman, "and every month since then has been better than the one before."

Mr. Dodd made the comment the other morning directly after returning to Capitol Hill from a pep talk to some 500 would-be campaign managers and workers, in Washington for a week of train-

ing. His enthusiasm may be exaggerated, but I found it widely shared by other Democrats in Congress, who until recently had little good to say about the White House, the party or their own political prospects.

The upbeat comments were usually joined to admonitions that election day is almost 11 months away and that much will happen before then. Bill Clinton's decision to put 20,000 Americans into a dangerous, yearlong "peacekeeping" mission in Bosnia is full of hazards. And Whitewater investigations on Capitol Hill and in Little Rock continue to raise unsettling questions about the president and the first lady.

Notwithstanding all of that, there are solid reasons for the Democrats to feel more confident

about their situation. Mr. Clinton came back from his European trip with enhanced credentials in the foreign policy arena, where his earlier performance had raised many doubts.

One Democratic legislator who had seen Chancellor Helmut Kohl this month told colleagues that Mr. Kohl had said, "For the first time in many decades, Europe will be pulling for the re-election of a Democratic President." That is not something one would have heard a year ago.

Closer to home, the Democrats have reason to feel that they have been winning the propaganda war over the budget. The Republicans claim, with much justification, that the Democrats have been demagoguing the Medicare issue unmercifully, exaggerating rela-

tively small differences between the president's plan and the Republican budget and deliberately fanning fears. But if turnout is fair play, those who slam-dunked Mr. Clinton's health reform plan in 1994 with dubious charges that it was government-controlled medicine are on weak grounds in faulting the Democrats' tactics.

And the differences on Medicaid, education and taxes — which the Democrats also have been using in the budget debate — are real and important.

Senator Paul Coverdell, Republican of Georgia, reflected the anxiety in his party when he told me: "In the short term, it's very difficult to win an argument with the president. He almost always wins the first round." Mr. Coverdell expressed the hope, as did Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour, that over time the public will swing back to a more favorable view of the Republican spending plan.

But it has been a year or more since Republicans had to plot a comeback strategy. In the heady weeks of the 1994 campaign and the even more dazzling first hundred days of rapid action on the Contract With America, everything seemed to be breaking for the Republicans. Now the spearhead of that offensive, Speaker

But it has been a year or more since Republicans had to plot a comeback strategy. In the heady weeks of the 1994 campaign and the even more dazzling first hundred days of rapid action on the Contract With America, everything seemed to be breaking for the Republicans. Now the spearhead of that offensive, Speaker

Both the speaker and the Republicans are on the run," according to Mr. Gephardt. It has been a long time since any Democrat could say that without evoking laughter. No wonder they are looking smug.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Activism That Hurts People in Need

By Joe Pang

RANGOON — Should human rights activists in Western nations, in their campaign for democratic reform in Burma, take away the right to work of thousands of Burmese with jobs in garment factories?

In 1989, as Burma began its open-door economic reforms after nearly three decades of socialist isolation, I visited Rangoon to explore the feasibility of setting up a garment factory.

I was shocked to discover that unemployment was 60 percent and that many young people in their mid-20s with high school or even college education had never had an opportunity to work. Practically the only jobs available were in the civil service or small-scale shops and restaurants.

After several months of negotiations, we opened our first joint venture factory with Myanmar Textile Industries, a division of the Ministry of Industry. I still remember the day we began recruiting. Despite heavy monsoon rains, more than 2,000 young Burmese came for the 400 jobs. Many were malnourished, and those who were unsuccessful at first refused to leave when we announced that the positions had been filled.

Those hired were trained by our technicians for three months.

Then we began shipping top quality garments to customers in the United States including well-known labels such as Liz Claiborne, Eddie Bauer and R. H. Macy. Customer reaction was so positive that our group now has four factories in Burma employing 3,300 workers.

Other foreign investors followed our example, and today there are eleven joint venture garment plants in Rangoon employing some 15,000 Burmese. An experienced garment worker can earn between \$30 and \$40 a month — nearly double the salary of a director in a state enterprise or government body.

Business in supporting industries has also grown, and the trickle-down economic effect has been significant, as shown by the shops that have opened near the factories.

However, since last year many of our U.S. customers have been under pressure from various human rights groups, including the New York-based Coalition for Corporate Withdrawal from Burma. These activists threaten to picket any stores selling Burmese-made goods. They also threaten to buy

shares of any publicly listed company importing such goods, to voice their views at annual stockholders' meetings.

Initially the activists' threats were ignored. However, under continuous pressure, including picketing, some of our customers finally gave in.

Garment exports to the United States from my group of companies in Burma reached \$32 million in 1994. This year we expect the figure to fall below \$10 million. Workers' average pay, which is mainly calculated by piece-rate, has fallen to \$12 dollars a month. In the next few months we expect to have to lay off up to half of our workforce because of the slump in American demand.

American human rights activists assert that the Burmese government violates human rights and represses democracy. But do they consider the rights of workers in Burma? Their misguided actions will hurt the very people they purport to help.

The writer is managing director of Victoria Garments Manufacturing Company in Hong Kong, which has four factories in Burma. He contributed this comment to the *International Herald Tribune*.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1895: Ambushes Laid

PARIS — [The Herald says in an editorial:] The impression among French political men yesterday [Dec. 11] was not good. It was reported that M. Faure was somewhat disgusted with the petty ambushes being laid on him, and the question "When shall we go to Versailles?" was openly passed about. The meaning of this is, "When shall we be called upon to elect a new President?" Certain persons profess to know the names of Moderate Republicans who are carrying on the campaign against the President through hatred of the Radical party. Even admitting that this is false, it must be granted that the situation is not satisfactory.

1920: Immigration Bill

WASHINGTON — Opening the House on the Immigration Restriction Bill, Representative Harold Knutson declared that several foreign governments are financing

"the movements of radicals" from Europe to the United States. Spain, he declared, is a scorching mass of anarchy and the Government is dumping this mass on America. Several Representatives opposed the Bill as a repressive measure towards any liberty-loving man. An amendment was adopted limiting the immigration embargo to one year from two.

1945: Eddin to Remain

TEHRAN — Former Premier Said Zia Eddin denied any intention of withdrawing from politics, saying his retirement would enable the Russians to "realize their anti-Iranian aims quicker." The former Premier's expulsion from Parliament was demanded by pro-Russian elements of the Iranian government last week on the grounds he was an "agent of a foreign power." He asserted that there was a campaign to oust him "since the Iranian Government's refusal to grant concessions to the Soviet Union."



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OPINION/LETTERS

Something Fishy Is Under That Whitewater Rock

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — On Nov. 5, 1993, armed with improperly obtained warnings about criminal references involving the president and Mrs. Clinton, four federal employees went to consult with three privately hired Clinton lawyers.

One of the private lawyers was Denver's James Lyons, whose "report" during the 1992 campaign threw most reporters off the Whitewater scandal's scent; five months before, Mr. Lyons was a caller to, and scheduled to be a visitor of, Vincent Foster, at the time of his apparent suicide.

At least one of the publicly paid White House aides — associate White House counsel William Kennedy III — made extensive notes of that Nov. 5 meeting.

We do not know if those notes reveal a conspiracy to obstruct justice, but we do know they are so damaging that the Clintons will fight to the Supreme Court to keep them from public view.

Gone is all past pretense of cooperating with investigators. To conceal that and related memos of Nov. 5, the Clintons have evoked no "executive privilege," with its Watergate connotation, but chose instead "lawyer-client privilege."

Trying to place his tawdry cover-up on a high moral plane, President Clinton explained: "Given the fact that this will set a big precedent, I don't believe the president should say he's not entitled to have complete confidence in his own lawyer."

The key to that is "his own." When anybody hires or is assigned a personal lawyer, the privilege of confidentiality usually exists, unless a new crime is being planned.

But nobody paid by the public is the president's "own"; White House counsel, as we saw with John Dean in Watergate, is not beyond the reach of investigators. The legal allegiance of all public employees is to the public that pays them and not to the superiors they report to.

Let's figure out what is going on. "If they testify about the private conversation between the president and his lawyer," said Vice President Al Gore on a television talk show on Sunday, "then that allows the complete elimination of the lawyer-client privilege." He went on to say: "They cannot give the details of a private conversation between the president and his lawyer."

Who are they? The only ones in that meeting asked to testify are the

four on the public payroll: Bruce Lindsey, the Clintons' closest confidant since Mr. Foster's death and the "cover-up coordinator," Bernard Nussbaum, the federal employee titled White House counsel, and two of his assistants, Neil Eggleston and Mr. Kennedy. The key notes subpoenaed were taken by Mr. Kennedy, not by the three privately paid personal lawyers.

From that we can deduce that one of the personal lawyers related a privileged conversation he had

Any pretense of cooperation is gone.

with the Clintons to four agents of the federal government, at least one of whom wrote it down contemporaneously. That surely breached confidentiality, and the document recording it can be subpoenaed in a government investigation.

The alternate deduction: One of the public employees passed some embarrassing or incriminating information about a conversation with the Clintons on to private counsel. That was never privileged because it went through a public intermediary, a White House aide.

My guess: After the White House aides revealed to Mr. Clinton's counsel their tips about criminal investigations, one of the private counsel, like a legal sap, relayed something his client told him, and Mr. Kennedy, like a political sap, wrote it down. After years of hiding it from Justice Department and congressional investigators, the Clintons cooked up this legal barrier.

Why hasn't the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, who is reportedly seeking the same Nov. 5 accounts, subpoenaed everything Mr. Kennedy ever wrote about Whitewater?

The courts might choose to demur in a fight between the legislative and executive branches, but Mr. Starr is more a creature of the judicial branch. If he added his own subpoena, not even Senate Democrats could find legalities to quash it.

A mysterious death; witnesses unbelievably forgetful about calls made in its aftermath; conflicts in sworn testimony about concealment of the dead man's files; now claims to a privilege of secrecy. Something is under that Whitewater rock.

The New York Times



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On Armenia

Regarding "In Armenia, the Bloom Is Off the Democratic Rose" (Nov. 28):

The parliamentary elections and the referendum on the constitution in Armenia last June were witnessed by observers from the United Nations and the European Union, who declared the elections "free although unfair." That qualification probably referred to the allocation of time to the various parties on national television and radio.

Democracy in Armenia continues to develop, and all opposition parties and newspapers have unrestricted freedom except the Armenian Revolutionary Federation.

The article fails to mention that this party is directed and financed from abroad. This is unlawful in Armenia and, to the best of our knowledge, all other sovereign countries as well.

VAHÉ JAZMADARIAN,
ROUBEN A. GREGORIAN,
Paris.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan was democratically and popularly elected president of the Republic of Armenia. He is the guarantor of the Armenian Constitution, which guarantees human rights and freedom of expression.

The president cannot overlook the state of insecurity endangering the existence of the newborn Armenia.

Punish Nigeria

Regarding "Big Oil Should Face What It Sows" (Opinion, Dec. 2):

It is a matter of regret that the international community is still dragging its feet over the issue of a mandatory oil embargo demanded by President Nelson Mandela and the Nigerian pro-democracy movement. Perhaps the international community might consider freezing Nigerian government assets overseas, including bank accounts into which oil proceeds are paid by the oil customers.

HAUK ARSLANIAN,
Honorary Consul,
Republic of Armenia,
Antwerp, Belgium.

Quebec History

Regarding "France Reassures Both Sides" (Nov. 1):

Jean-Marie Le Pen blamed Quebec's referendum outcome on newly arrived immigrants in the "old French province."

The original "newly arrived immigrants," also "strangers to Quebec in heart and spirit" — to quote Mr. Le Pen — were the French.

They were welcomed by my ancestors, Canadian natives — or, as they were called at that time, Indians (a misnomer). Soon thereafter, these French "guests" of Quebec began a murderous campaign of genocide against their Indian hosts.

This is the bloody legacy "in heart and spirit" that French-speaking opportunists like Mr. Le Pen dare to disregard in their quest for power at any cost.

STEVEN T. JOHNSON,
Esby, France.

Space Exploration Offers A Needed Shot of Vitality

By Tom Harris

LOS ANGELES — We need space exploration; without it, we heirs of Western civilization risk becoming a rootless folk culture engaged in endless self-reflection. The Galileo spacecraft encounter with Jupiter provides exactly the kind of cultural infusion our society needs.

Our history since the Renaissance shows a strong correlation between geographic exploration and general

MEANWHILE

cultural vitality, says Stephen Pyne, a history professor at Arizona State University. Mr. Pyne sees important similarities between what space exploration offers our civilization and what the exploration of the world contributed to Europe after the Middle Ages.

To properly understand the potential that awaits us, we should look at the societal impact of the first great age of discovery five centuries ago.

The Europeans' first encounter with the New World was an abrupt exposure to new geographies, new materials, new peoples, new cultures, new ideas — a virtual avalanche of new information, far more than could ever have been generated in any other way in such a short time. When this new information was brought home to Europe, it swept away many of the old certainties about what the world was like.

A good example is in the field of cartography. The great map of Fra Mauro was revered as the undisputed atlas of the world when it was published in 1459. On it, the world consisted of one great land mass, "The Island of the Earth," comprising Europe, Asia and Africa and occupying six-sevenths of the globe. The remaining one-seventh was ocean. There was no "terra incognita" and certainly no other continents or oceans; there was simply no place to put them.

Within 100 years, this arrogance had all but vanished. Most of the maps of the new age of discovery bore the legend, "All the world which has been discovered up to this time." The Europeans were now engaged in what the historian Daniel Boorstin calls "negative discovery": They were coming to understand that they actually knew very little about the world around them.

The information shock occurred in many fields, bringing about a radical transformation of European civilization. Exploration and the con-

sequent challenging of old ideas soon became highly valued. People began to feel that the future could be different from the past, that they weren't caught in an endless cycle and that they really were learning things that the ancient world couldn't have imagined. In this way, Mr. Pyne explains, geographic exploration became a crucial part of what made Western civilization dynamic. Discovery, no matter in what field, became a core value of our culture.

Seen in this light, space exploration fulfills a critical role in today's world, providing precisely the kind of information input we need at this time in history. Unlike other forms of discovery, which usually come gradually out of existing institutions of science and scholarship, the information we get from space exploration comes in great gulps.

During the Voyager 2 flyby of Neptune, for example, information was coming in so fast that one scientist likened the experience to "trying to drink from a fire hose."

Whether the drive to explore is simply a characteristic of a particular culture, as Mr. Pyne believes, or is hard-wired into the human psyche, as the Canadian anthropologist Charles Laughlin believes, there is no question that our civilization needs space exploration. Exploring the final frontier is important not so much for what we'll find out there but for the renewal in spirit it encourages.

"Choosing to explore the solar system will not, by itself, assure us continued status as a world civilization," Mr. Pyne says. "That requires much more, a broader cultural GNP, if you will. But choosing not to explore will ensure that we will not retain that stature."

Happily, this message seems to be getting through to government. Although Galileo is one of the last of the large robotic planetary explorers, a new series of smaller, less costly spacecraft will soon be flying, giving us the thrill of extraterrestrial exploration and discovery on a regular basis. Whether human beings eventually follow the robots to these distant worlds remains to be seen. For now, with Galileo, there is a new optimism in the space community: We're back in the planetary exploration business!

The writer, a lecturer on space exploration, the environment and human survival, contributed this column to the Los Angeles Times.



The best achievements were little ones.

Some of the best things that happened in 1995 were to children.

As a matter of fact, over the five decades since UNICEF was founded in 1946, more and more progress has been made for children. Progress in life expectancy: up by more than a third. Progress in infant survival: up by more than half. Progress in birth rates, in education, in nutrition, in health.

There are many factors responsible. UNICEF and the governments, organizations, and individuals who have worked to improve the education, nutrition, and health of children throughout the world. The world's greater willingness to act in the interests of children. And a dramatic increase in knowledge: in awareness that children have rights

and that misery is no longer inevitable.

Much of this knowledge and awareness has come about through communications. Including visual communications such as photography. Helping people in industrialized nations see the challenges faced by those who are less prosperous. While at the same time giving the latter a glimpse of hope, a snapshot of their own potential.

As an enterprise that has consistently led the way in photographic technology, we are gratified to see visual communications providing not only enjoyment, but



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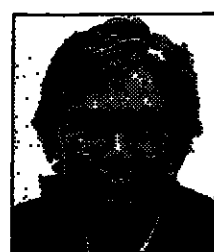
understanding. And as a worldwide organization that believes in living and working together for the betterment of all people, we applaud UNICEF in its continuing efforts to promote global well-being through local development. In its vision of a world where all children are protected. Because we, too, believe civilization can and must fulfill its potential by nurturing its children.

We are heartened by the progress thus far. But even more needs to be done. And we hope it won't take another five decades to ensure that every little child can look forward to a big future.

Canon

A promise made. A promise being kept.

A message from Carol Bellamy,
Executive Director of
the United Nations Children's Fund.



At the 1990 World Summit for Children, leaders from more than 150 nations — including 71 heads of state and government — promised to achieve some major goals in child survival, development, and protection by the year 2000. To sustain momentum, governments and United Nations agencies later formulated a set of intermediate goals for the end of 1995.

As this year draws to a close, more than 100 of the developing countries, with more than 90 per cent of the developing world's children, are on track toward meeting these goals.

At least 84 countries have met the mid-decade goal of reducing measles cases by 90 per cent. Some 145 countries have become polio-free. Malnutrition has been decreased. Iodine deficiency disorders and vitamin A deficiency have been reduced. More than 4,000 hospitals have taken steps to encourage breastfeeding and thus become "baby-friendly." Progress in education has been made.

As a result, 1996 will be an even better year. Some 2.5 million fewer children will die than in 1990. Tens of millions will avoid the scourge of malnutrition. And at least 750,000 fewer children will be disabled, blinded, crippled, or mentally retarded.

These achievements have not always made the nightly news in years past.

But they will improve daily life for millions of families in years to come.

C-Bellamy
Carol Bellamy



CHILDREN FIRST!

For more information, please contact your nearest UNICEF office or National Committee for UNICEF.

This column is donated by Canon and the International Herald Tribune.

INTERNATIONAL

Electoral Outlook Is Good for Kohl, But Bleak for Ally

Reuters
BONN — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats could make big gains in three crucial German state elections in March, but his Free Democrat coalition partners appear to be headed for serious losses, according to a poll published Monday.

The votes in Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate and Schleswig-Holstein, are considered important for the future of Mr. Kohl's coalition because serious Free Democrat losses could threaten his 10-seat majority in Parliament.

The poll, conducted by the Sample Institute for Focus magazine, showed the Christian Democrats could stay ahead with 47 percent of the vote in Baden-Württemberg, up from 39.6 in the 1992 vote there.

If the Christian Democrats performed that well, they could probably form a one-party government after four years of a coalition with the Free Democrats.

Mr. Kohl's party could also return to its position as the biggest party in Rhineland-Palatinate by rising to 45 percent from the 38.7 percent it won in 1991, the poll indicates.

The Social Democratic Party, the main opposition party, governs with the Free Democrats in Rhineland-Palatinate.

It could switch to a coalition with the environmentalist Greens, who won the support of 10 percent of those polled, if the Free Democrats cannot assure them a majority.

According to the survey, the Social Democrats should remain the strongest party in Schleswig-Holstein, where it governs alone, by winning 43 percent, compared with the 46.2 percent showing it managed in 1992. The Christian Democrats would win 38 percent, an increase over its 1992 showing of 33.8 percent.

By contrast, the Free Democrats, whose national leadership is distracted by fighting, would fail to clear the 5 percent minimum needed to return to legislatures in Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate, the poll said.

Only in Schleswig-Holstein does the party have a chance, but only a razor-thin one — it scored 5 percent in the poll.

The Social Democrats, who profited in 1991 and 1992 from voter anger over the high cost of German unification and an economic recession, would lose from three to six points in the three states, the poll said.

The poll tracked the party at 26 percent in Baden-Württemberg, 38 percent in Rhineland-Palatinate and 43 percent in Schleswig-Holstein.



Voters sitting in an unheated Moscow theater at an election rally held by the Russia's Choice party on Monday.

ARCTIC: For Russian Miners in Far North, Any Party Is Better Than the Government's

Continued from Page 1

simple people," said Nikolai Stroyenko, acting chief of the Independent Mine Workers here and once an enthusiastic supporter of Mr. Yeltsin.

"But how can you honestly vote for a government that has never supported you? This little city is one of the most expensive places in Russia, and we

haven't been paid for three months. Not a ruble. We have trouble buying bread, feeding our children.

"Suddenly last week, as we prepared to strike, the government sent a delegation to see us. And believe it or not, they found our salaries. Now, we are happy to be able to feed our families for a few weeks. But nobody is fooled about what is

More Cases of Ebola Suspected in Liberia

Virus Hits Refugee's Home

The Associated Press
GENEVA — A medical team that crossed into Liberia to investigate a possible outbreak of Ebola has discovered four more suspect cases, the World Health Organization said Monday.

The five-member team visited the home of a 25-year-old Liberian refugee who was confirmed Friday as having the highly contagious virus.

They found two men sick with fever and extreme fatigue, possible early signs of Ebola infection. They have been isolated in their home, WHO said.

Another woman in the house has been hospitalized in the Ivory Coast with symptoms similar to Ebola fever.

A third man who is believed to be sick had left the house

before the team arrived and his whereabouts were being traced. A second woman, the wife of the confirmed case, was also not at home and was being traced, the United Nations health agency said.

The home is in Plibo village in Maryland County. Blood samples from the suspect cases have been sent to the Institut Pasteur in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, where tests for the virus will be carried out by the medical team.

The team is continuing to investigate hospital and other contacts of the Ebola patient in the Tabou region in the Ivory Coast, WHO said.

The Ebola victim was admitted to a hospital in Gzozu, 15 kilometers (about 10 miles) from the Liberian border, last week. He has been isolated and appears to be recovering, WHO said.

An outbreak of Ebola killed 250 people earlier this year in the town of Kikwit in Zaire and infected many others.

Its symptoms include massive internal bleeding, vomiting and diarrhea. It can be passed on through any contact with a patient's bodily fluids, including droplets of saliva.

The new case is the first discovered since the Kikwit outbreak was officially declared over in August.

The suspect cases in Liberia raise fears of an outbreak of the disease there, where years of civil war have ravaged health facilities. Although the war officially ended in September, doctors had to negotiate with rebel leaders before crossing the frontier.

Black Georgia Voters Lose in Supreme Court

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court upheld Monday the creation of 62 Georgia judgeships over a challenge by black voters.

The ruling, made without a written opinion, came on a 5-4 vote as the justices refused to let group of black Georgians intervene in a voting-rights dispute over the state trial court judgeships.

The minority — Justices John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer — voted to send the case back to a lower court for more study.

The black voters said they could be allowed to appeal because the Justice Department had dropped its challenge under the Voting Rights Act.

Georgia is covered by the 1965 law and therefore must get approval from the Justice Department or a federal court before making any electoral changes.

Such approval certifies that the change has neither the purpose nor the effect of harming minorities' right to vote.

In 1991, the Supreme Court decided the approval requirement applied to the creation of elected judgeships.

The Justice Department approved 36 judgeships created in Georgia between 1967 and 1992, but withheld approval for 62 positions.

Georgia then asked a three-judge federal court in the District of Columbia to grant approval for those judgeships.

The court refused to let the black voters intervene in the case, saying the Justice Department would represent their interests.

The court approved the judgeships last February.

BOSNIA: Hope of Pilots' Release

Continued from Page 1

wanted to show the will still existed, despite three-and-a-half years of siege and bombardment by Bosnian Serbian forces, to live in harmony with the Serbs.

"Don't go. We can live together again," said banners waved by the good-natured crowd.

The UN chief of mission in Bosnia on Monday reassured Sarajevo Serbs that the transfer to government control would be gradual and closely monitored.

"The transfer of territory will not happen overnight," Antonio Padayay said. "It will be a gradual process, it will be a process closely monitored by the international community so the guarantees built into the Dayton agreement will be effective."

Bosnian Serbs, meanwhile, have threatened to bar NATO soldiers from entering a key Serbian-held area of northern Bosnia unless they agree to give

advance notice of their patrols, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization announced on Monday.

The threat was issued during an incident Sunday near the town of Brcko and marks the first such dispute since NATO troops started arriving in the Tuzla region of northeast Bosnia as advance elements of the NATO peace implementation force.

Bruce Stock, a UN spokesman in Tuzla, said a small U.S. reconnaissance patrol had gone up to Brcko, a Serbian-held town in the northern Posavina corridor, on Sunday without previously telling the Serbs. U.S. troops are to patrol the Tuzla region under the Bosnia peace accord.

"It caused a bit of an incident," Mr. Stock said. The Serbs told UN Protection Force officials that "U.S. soldiers were not welcome there before or after the signing" of the peace treaty.

(Reuters, AFP)



Striking rail workers and France Telecom employees at the port of Marseille pausing Monday to grab a bite to eat.

FRANCE: Prime Minister Gives More Ground to Striking Workers

Continued from Page 1

tem and prevent France from joining in a single European currency.

"To say that the strike will come to an end is tantamount to having illusions, because you cannot make a strike go away or stop by pushing a button," Mr. Blondel responded when asked if a meeting with the prime minister was enough to hope that an end of the strike was imminent.

The union chief added that what was necessary was a "global negotiation" that involved all aspects of economic restructuring. On their face, the broad talks called for later Monday by Mr. Juppé would not seem to fulfill Mr. Blondel's demand.

Louis Vianney, who leads the other powerful union at the heart of the strike, the Communist CGT, also exhibited little ap-

petite for compromise, calling for demonstrations Tuesday because, he told reporters, "it's the only way to make the government budge."

"If we say to the workers, first you go back to work, and then we'll talk, it would be all the less likely to succeed given that they already have experience of that," Mr. Vianney said upon emerging from a meeting with Mr. Juppé.

The prime minister had refused to meet with the two union leaders until Sunday, when he made what was widely viewed as a significant gesture of conciliation by agreeing to face-to-face sessions. In further concessions, Mr. Juppé pledged to review some aspects of his austerity program and made several other pledges to retain the

most important of which is their right to retire after age 50 while keeping full pension benefits. The work stoppage by the transit workers, which has closed train stations and eliminated most buses, has forced 10 million people in the Paris region to walk, bike or drive to work for nearly three weeks.

More important, the strike has caused devastating losses of hundreds of millions of dollars to small and large businesses in manufacturing, retail and tourism, including hotels and restaurants, as well as stores banking on a Christmas shopping season that has not yet arrived.

Factories are also closing or reducing output as they are unable to deliver goods and services to customers or get material for industrial production. On Monday, four French ports, in Bordeaux, Marseille, Nantes and St. Malo, joined the strike.

ASEAN: Trade Surges in Bloc

Continued from Page 1

than either the European Union or the North American Free Trade Area, although per capita income and purchasing power are still substantially lower.

ASEAN heads of government, meeting in Bangkok on Thursday and Friday, are expected to approve steps to accelerate completion of the free-trade deal, in effect bringing the deadline for six of the seven members of the group forward to the year 2000, from 2003.

Vietnam, ASEAN's newest member, has been given until 2006 to comply.

When the free-trade accord was first initiated in 1992 amid considerable skepticism, ASEAN countries were given until 2008 to cut tariffs on most manufactured products and capital goods traded within the

group to no more than 5 percent.

With certain exceptions, unprocessed agricultural products have been added to the list, and the whole process has been accelerated and deepened, officials said.

More than 80 percent of intra-ASEAN trade is now subject to the tariff-cutting program.

Regional trade in products covered by ASEAN's preferential tariff reductions rose 44 percent in 1994, to nearly \$93 billion from \$64 billion in 1993.

Intra-ASEAN trade in 1994 made up more than 20 percent of ASEAN's total trade of \$506 billion—a larger share than the group's trade with other major trading partners, such as Japan (19 percent), the United States (17 percent) and the European Union (15 percent).

Toni Cade Bambara, Writer, Is Dead at 56

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Toni Cade Bambara, a writer and documentary filmmaker who was celebrated for her intricate use of Black English in fiction, died Saturday of cancer at a hospital in Philadelphia. She was 56 and lived in Philadelphia.

In the early 1970s, Ms. Bambara was a major contributor to the emerging genre of contemporary black women's literature, along with writers such as Toni Morrison and Alice Walker.

Rather than traditional linear plots, she would often use flashbacks, stream of consciousness and interweavings of plot and subplot to tell a story. She would frequently weave black

dialects into her prose, creating a unique, complex language that was widely admired by critics.

Francesco Bonvicini, 54, the Italian cartoonist whose popular comic strip "Stumpruppen" depicting the misadventures of German soldiers, was signed "Bonvi," died Sunday in Bologna after being hit by a car.

Darren Robinson, 28, the 450-pound rapper called the Human Bear Box for his percussive belches and grunts and a former member of the group Fat Boys, died Sunday after singing for friends at his home in New York City.

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Jewelry From the Sky and Sea

By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Tramp, tramp go the feet on the city street. But no strike-bound commuter struggling to work could have a more enchanted journey than to follow this narrow brick road.

It bisects the main gallery of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs. In the imaginary alleyway, painted white clouds sail overhead in a blue sky and shop windows are like miniature aquariums showing fish with prickly gold fins, diamond-studded shells and emerald and sapphire "seaweed."

The work of Jean Schlumberger, the French-born designer who became a renowned jeweler for Tiffany in New York, has been given a magical spring for "A Diamond in the City," an exhibition of jewelry and objects (until Feb. 25).

Milky pearls laid among baguettes and sheaves of corn, with a whisky-brown diamond ring on a hunk of French bread are other imaginative ways in which the set designer Hilton McConnico captures the spirit of Schlumberger. The jeweler, who died in 1987 at age 80, is known for turning nature into art.

"I saw nature and I found a nerve," Schlumberger said to describe the inspiration for enameled fish with scarlet fins, a spiky seahorse and a bird of paradise with diamond crest, ruby eye and exotic multicolored feathers in amethyst, aquamarines, emeralds and sapphires.

At the opening party, the Tiffany contingent (sponsors of the show) included Nicholas Bongard, Schlumberger's long-term partner, who described how ideas were literally dredged from the deep at their holiday home in Guadeloupe.

"We were out in a boat and he reached out in shallow water and pulled out a shell with algae attached to it — and by the next morning I saw the drawing he had done in the studio," said Bongard. The result was a bracelet of diamond-studded shells on a bed of emerald algae surrounded by a sapphire sea — shown in the exhibition draped over a shell with a branch of stick coral.

In a subtle reference to one of Schlumberger's most famous pieces, jeweled bugs are displayed on a cactus plant in an earthenware pot. And there, in pride of place, is the flower pot sprouting a golden sunflower set

with a sapphire known as the "Dancing Girl of India." It was a 1960 creation for Mrs. Paul Mellon, one of "Schlumberger's" influential patrons.

Schlumberger was an unusual mix, with his wit and style combined with precise technical skill. He started his career in Paris as a fashion jeweler, making the whimsical buttons for the madcap designer Elsa Schiaparelli and creating original flying-fish earrings for society ladies.

WORLD WAR II ended these sophisticated frivolities and when Schlumberger left France for New York in 1946, he discovered his vocation as a fine jeweler, joining Tiffany in 1956. The enamel "Jackie" bracelets in the exhibition are a reminder of the days when he was the toast of the town and Jacqueline Kennedy as first lady was a keen client and inaugurated a Manhattan exhibition of his work in 1961.

Schlumberger's lasting pull on high society was shown by the opening crowd, from Jacqueline de Ribes through Hélène David-Weill, who has written an enthusiastic foreword to the catalogue that is



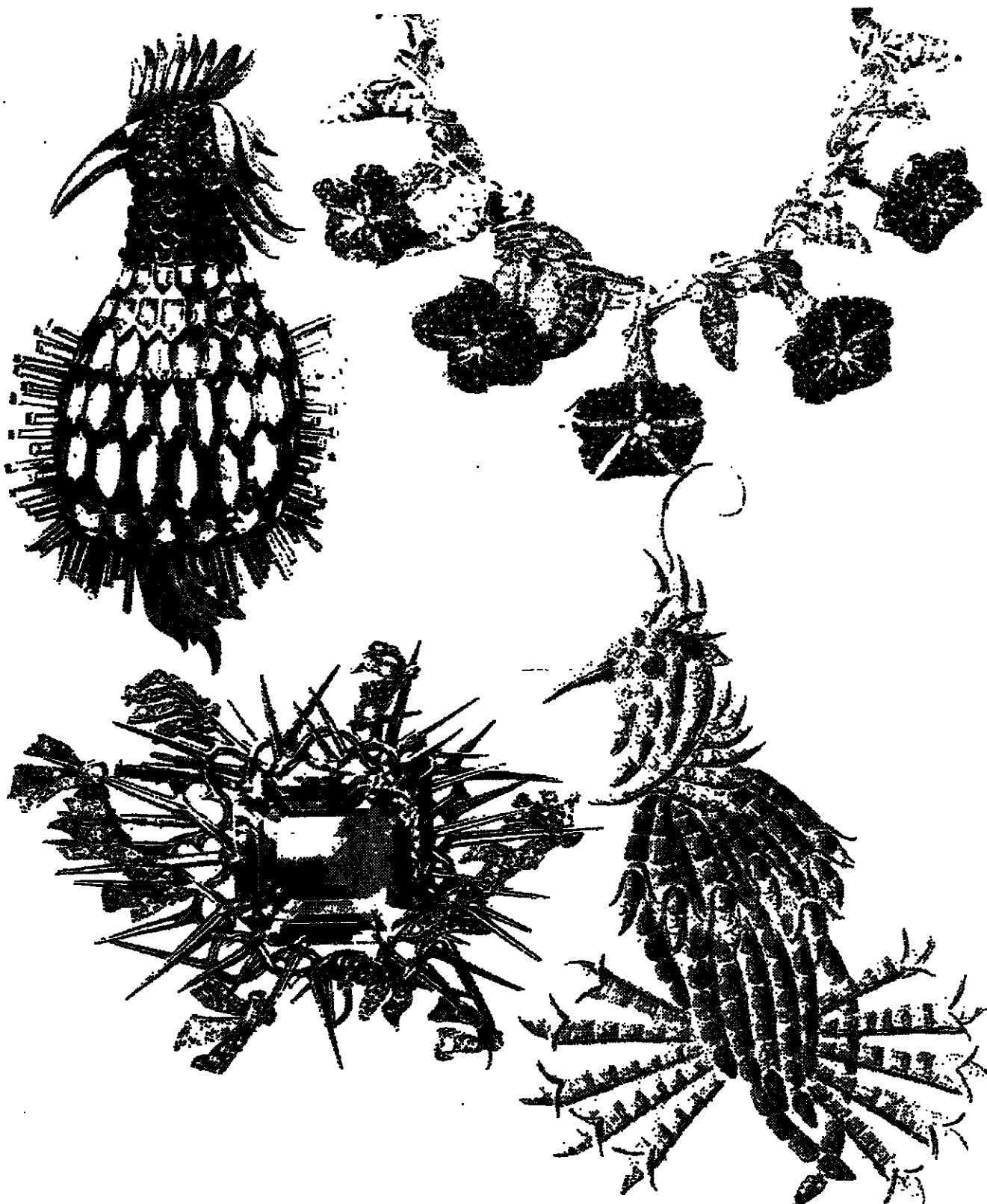
Seahorse clip, 1964.

also imaginatively presented: insect hat pins photographed as pond life and diamond and coral fish clips in an aquatic setting.

If the exhibition displays are sometimes distracting, they capture the energy and mercurial of Schlumberger's work, whereas a more reverent approach would turn them into museum pieces. And McConnico knows when to leave well enough alone, as in the single twig alongside the fabulous Tiffany yellow diamond (the largest in the world) made into a clip of a diamond bird perched on the rock, after a 1975 drawing by Schlumberger.

The delicate working drawings also speak for themselves. Schlumberger considered them the foundation of his art, saying "ideas come to me at pencil point," and it is possible to follow the lines of creation of a shell pin or a flower clip.

Visitors who have strolled the exhibition's alley may be inspired to take another short walk to the Place Vendôme, where the jeweler's windows sparkle with diamonds and glow with gold — in defiance of the morose Paris climate.



Gem-studded clips and necklace in "A Diamond in the City," an exhibition of the work of Jean Schlumberger.



Marisa Berenson (left), Liza Minnelli and French club owner Régine at charity gala.

A Charity Gala for Children

PARIS — Liza Minnelli was the elegant cabaret and *le tout Paris* was in the audience when actress Marisa Berenson played a new role as St. Nicolas.

Twenty years after she came to fame in "Barry Lyndon" and "Death in Venice," and first met Minnelli when they were filming "Cabaret," Berenson launched an annual benefit to help children in need.

In spite of the labor unrest in Paris, Minnelli showed up to promote her own charity for brain-damaged children, the Institute of Human Potential, one of three children's charities to benefit.

For Berenson, who is a Unesco goodwill ambassador, the evening, with its charity auction of jewels and upscale tombola, was a bittersweet reminder of the days when she was dubbed Queen of the Jet Set. Although the almond-shaped eyes, the perfect oval face and the tumbled Botticelli curls may look eerily the same as when Berenson played an aristocratic beauty in Stanley Kubrick's 1975 movie, she says she has put the social whirl behind her.

"Barry Lyndon" was all about appearances — things always reflect where one is at the time," she says. "Being insecure in life and as a person, not being aware whether I had talent or beauty, it was miraculous to me that all this happened."

Last month, Berenson published an account of her personal journey of self-discovery. "Au-delà du Miroir" (Editions Michel Lafont) relates how the gilded granddaughter of fashion designer Elsa Schiaparelli rose to fame as a Vogue cover girl, became a movie star, fell for unsatisfactory men, smashed up her face in an automobile accident and battled to overcome what she deemed an unloved childhood.

"I did a lot of things that I don't want to repeat," says Berenson. "I was very naive and

rather innocent for years. Life was like a current taking me. I did not have maturity or inner awareness and no inner security or balance that makes for harmony in life."

The St. Nicolas gala was proof that for Berenson, helping others is the best self-help. More than all the New Age philosophies — from yoga through therapeutic diet and crystals — that she has explored in her life, her Unesco work with children has touched her most deeply.

Berenson says that, in raising her own daughter, Starlite, now 18, she broke the "chain" of mother and daughter relationships that started when Schiaparelli parted from her mercurial husband with a babe in arms.

"There is a pattern of women in families — grandmother, mother and daughter — I made a conscious effort to break that," says Berenson, who, like her grandmother, left her husband when her daughter was an infant.

Schiap's daughter Yvonne ("Gogo") was subsequently dumped, at age six, in a Swiss school, for the sake of the child's health — and the mother's fashion career. In turn, six-year-old Berenson and her five-year-old sister Berynthia ("Berry") found themselves in Switzerland, rejoining their parents for glamorous vacations. Berenson says that her boarding school years in various countries have made her "a citizen of the world — I don't have roots." She is fluent in four languages, and she now lives in Paris. (She has just played Albert Schweitzer's wife in a French movie.)

Starlite now lives with her father in the United States, but Berenson says that she has an "incredible relationship" with her daughter. "She is very balanced, strong and outgoing," she says. "To me, she is the best thing that I have done in my life."

Suzy Menkes

Adrift in the Colors of the Mediterranean

PARIS — She looks a most unlikely saleswoman supreme. But Angela Pintaldi only has to put on one of her striking creations and she gives it an extra allure.

Around the neck go rows of pink and green tourmalines — and the graceful Italian woman turns into a Masai princess. With bold bracelets spinning through therapeutic diet and crystals — that she has explored in her life, her Unesco work with children has touched her most deeply.

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Suzy Menkes

Nuggets of watery aquamarine bring Pintaldi back home — to Siracusa, the southern Italian town where she was

SHOP WATCH

born, which gives her the sense of the sea and of intense colors.

An exhibition at a Paris gallery and a book showcasing her work have put Pintaldi center stage, while she was once the well-kept secret of international socialites from Mirella Agnelli to Victoria de Rothschild. They like the one-off slightly eth-

nic appeal of her jewelry and objects that are made from semiprecious stones.

Her own favorite is amber, especially the rare violet-blue amber that reposes among the treacly yellow pieces at the Galerie de Valois, owned by Joyce Ma, in the gardens of the Palais Royal. There Pintaldi's collection of paisley shawls form a rich backdrop to the clean display of jewelry that sells from 3,500 francs for a sculptured wooden bracelet, to 10 times that for the chunky aquamarine necklace.

For those for whom such objects of

desire are out of reach, there is the book: "Carubba, the Art of Angela Carrubba Pintaldi" (published by Rizzoli) with poetic photographs by Fabrizio Ferri. His camera lingers lovingly on details of the jewels or on Pintaldi, photographed floating Ophelia-like, anchored by ropes of pearls, in the sea on the Mediterranean island of Pantelleria, whose volcanic rocks are an inspiration for her designs.

Angela Carrubba Pintaldi, 168-173 Galerie de Valois, Paris, until Jan. 10.

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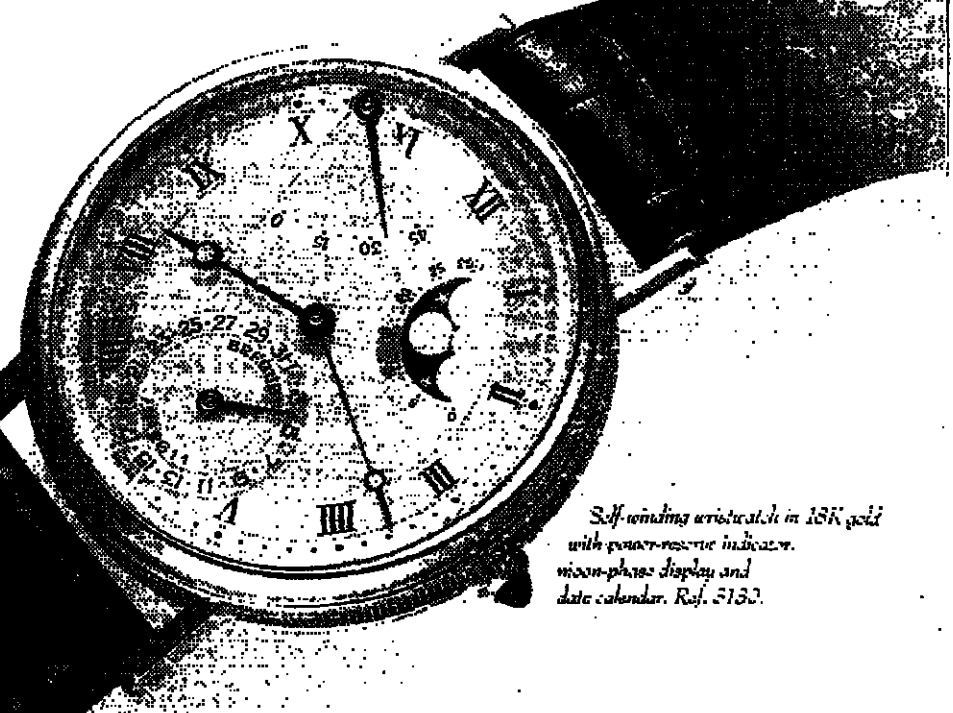
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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1995

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Digital TV Group Gains Strength As Kirch Joins

Bloomberg Business News
FRANKFURT — The Kirch Group said Monday that it would join the alliance for a digital TV decoder standard in Germany rather than market a separate technology, removing a major obstacle to creating a European standard for multimedia set-top boxes.

"It will give the market a chance to grow," said Gerd Kirch, an analyst with Giga Information Group in London.

Kirch said it had agreed to join Multi-Media Beteiligungs-Gesellschaft, or MMBG. The alliance, which also includes Bertelsmann AG of Germany and Canal Plus SA of France, will supply digital television technology used in set-top boxes by Deutsche Telekom AG's cable customers.

Vebacom GmbH, a unit of VEB AG, will also join the alliance, a spokesman for Deutsche Telekom said.

Details of the alliance will be announced Tuesday, he said. Vebacom had no immediate comment.

Because Deutsche Telekom owns the largest cable network in Germany, the decision will help set the standard for the technology that viewers throughout Europe will use to receive digital programs via cable networks or satellites.

"The goal of a European standard is almost reached," a spokesman for Bertelsmann said.

Ms. Yuskel said the combination of Bertelsmann and Kirch in Germany and Canal Plus in France would be a powerful force in the emerging market, which promises to provide viewers with more channels and programs than traditional analog television.

The other members of the alliance are Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de Télédiffusion SA and the German broadcasters ARD, ZDF and RTL.

If the MMBG technology is successful, other cable and satellite operators would be encouraged to use it as well, Ms. Yuskel said.

But companies such as British Sky Broadcasting PLC may still introduce rival technologies, she said.

"The only other real player is BSkyB," she said. "They have been very quiet."

A spokesman for BSkyB had no comment on the Kirch decision.

Kirch Group's move removes the threat that German viewers would be confused by competing technologies.

Kirch planned to produce its own "d-Box" technology through a partnership with Nokia AB of Finland. MMBG's "Mediabox" was designed to be produced by an array of companies under license.

Apple and Thorn-EMI Cut CD Deal

New Studio Aims to Popularize Enhanced Music Disks

By Richard Covington
Special to the Herald Tribune

LONDON — The recording studio that brought the world the Beatles is joining with the company that brought the world the personal computer in a venture to popularize music compact disks enhanced with multimedia.

Thorn-EMI PLC's Abbey Road, where the Beatles recorded almost all of their studio music, and Apple Computer Inc. are to announce a venture on Tuesday that will create a new studio and work to replace audio CDs with enhanced versions that add lyrics sheets, biographical material, video interviews, and even interactive games to existing audio tracks. Played on a conventional disk player, listeners hear only the music. But played on a CD-ROM drive on a computer, users can access all the fireworks of interactive visual material.

"In time, practically all music will be on enhanced compact disk," predicted Martin Benge, vice president for Abbey Road. "The evolution of this technology will probably alter the way musicians compose," he said.

At present, the market for enhanced disks is limited by the relatively small proportion of households with computers equipped with CD-ROMs, said Deborah Monas, an analyst with Kagan World Media. In Britain, for instance, only 7 percent of homes have CD-ROMs, about the same percentage as in Germany. In other European countries, the figures are lower. It will be another five years before there is a widespread market for enhanced CDs, Ms. Monas said.

Yet some analysts said the new format could take a large bite from the \$35 billion-a-year audio disk business. In contrast to CD-ROMs, which cost upward of \$40 per disk, enhanced CDs are priced around \$5 higher than conventional audio disks.

About 100 enhanced compact disks are currently on the market. Musicians such as Peter Gabriel, Todd Rundgren and David Bowie have been in the forefront of exploiting the multimedia potential of enhanced CDs. "Stripped," the latest release by the Rolling Stones, contains an interactive segment and is presently the seventh best-selling disk in the United States, according to Billboard magazine.

One of the first hurdles facing the new format is the problem of where to find them in the record stores. Larger outlets such as Tower Records and Virgin Megastores have allocated separate shelf space exclusively for enhanced compact disks.

The new studio will be known as Abbey Road Interactive and will be open to musicians from all recording labels, not exclusively those signed to EMI. Abbey Road will produce at least 24 enhanced CD titles within the next three years.

The agreement between Apple and Abbey Road stipulates that the venture may not use the name of the Beatles or otherwise associate its activities with the group. Apple Computer is not related to the Beatles' company Apple, which sued the computer maker in 1990 over the use of the apple logo on music-related hardware. Under a 1981 agreement between the companies, Apple Computer was to use its logo only on computer equipment to avoid interfering with the British content's music business.

According to Sajiv Chahil, Apple Computer's vice president for entertainment and new media, the alliance with Abbey Road is "the first step in a major campaign of alliances with media, publishing and film companies" to exploit multimedia opportunities.

By forging a partnership with Abbey Road, Apple expects to raise its profile not only among musicians, but among the music-buying public at large. The intent of the alliance is to demonstrate that enhanced compact disks are not "some gimmick created in a Silicon Valley laboratory, but an innovation embraced by one of the most well-known recording studios in the world," Mr. Chahil said.

The additional cost of producing an enhanced CD can run from \$20,000 for elaborated liner notes and biographical material, to as much as \$250,000 for interactive games and animation.

Record Companies Try to Face the Music

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In 1995, the Beatles are still very much in style. In fact, they are the hottest thing in the record business.

For an industry that thrives on fresh talent, that is no reason to smile. To some, the runaway success of the new Beatles album, more than two decades after the band broke up, is a sign of troubled times.

"As a whole, we didn't put out enough good records," said Doug Morris, the new chairman of MCA Music Entertainment, a unit of Seagram Co.

In the past 18 months, Mr. Morris was promoted, dismissed, hired by a rival company, and promoted again. Along the way, two of the largest record companies, MCA and the Warner Music unit of Time Warner Inc., let their top executives go.

Meanwhile, Sony last week dismissed Michael P. Schulhof, the president of its American operations and the executive who oversaw Sony Music.

The turmoil of 1995 lays bare several fundamental shifts, which could spell trouble for the \$35 billion worldwide music business. As new leaders take the helm at record companies, many analysts question whether they are any better equipped than their predecessors to navigate the industry through a rapidly changing landscape.

For the first time since the compact disc came along in 1982, analysts in the United States are likely to be flat for the year.

Moreover, the foreign market, which with the CD was the true engine of growth for the industry, has become more challenging. Sales in some overseas markets, such as Brazil and Malaysia, are booming, and the industry is plowing into such new territories as India and China, but once-robust markets in Europe and Japan are flagging.

The rapid growth comes as entrepreneurs such as David Geffen are starting new record labels, and conglomerates like Viacom Inc. and the Walt Disney Co. are thinking about jumping into the business.

"We have too much money chasing too few acts," said Val Azouli, the new president of Time Warner's Atlantic Records. "At this rate, we're going to blow our brains out."

Central Bankers' Group Sees Japan and Europe Escaping a Downturn

Bloomberg Business News
BASEL, Switzerland — Europe will avert a recession, Japan is recovering and the U.S. economy continues to expand, the Group of 10 central bank governors agreed Monday at their monthly meeting.

"We have seen some slow-down of activity in the last months, but we don't expect there will be a new recessionary development" in Europe, the group's spokesman, Hans Tietmeyer, the president of the Bundesbank, said.

Mr. Tietmeyer said the central bankers had detected signs that the Japanese economy was starting to recover, while "the American economic situation seems to be very positive — growth is going on, and inflation seems to be under control."

Europe, Japan and America all have seen growth in their gross national product since the first quarter of 1995.

But the group's outlook for Japan, at least, matches the Bank of Japan's latest quarterly outlook survey, which found 10,000 managers across that nation at their most optimistic in almost four years.

The central bankers also were briefed on the oil markets by the governor of the Saudi Arabian central bank, who forecast that oil prices will be stable next year, Mr. Tietmeyer said.

The group also endorsed proposed amendments to international capital adequacy guidelines to allow banks to use their own in-house models to assess risks from derivatives.

The amendments, drawn up by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, will take effect on Jan. 1, 1997. They will be disclosed Tuesday.

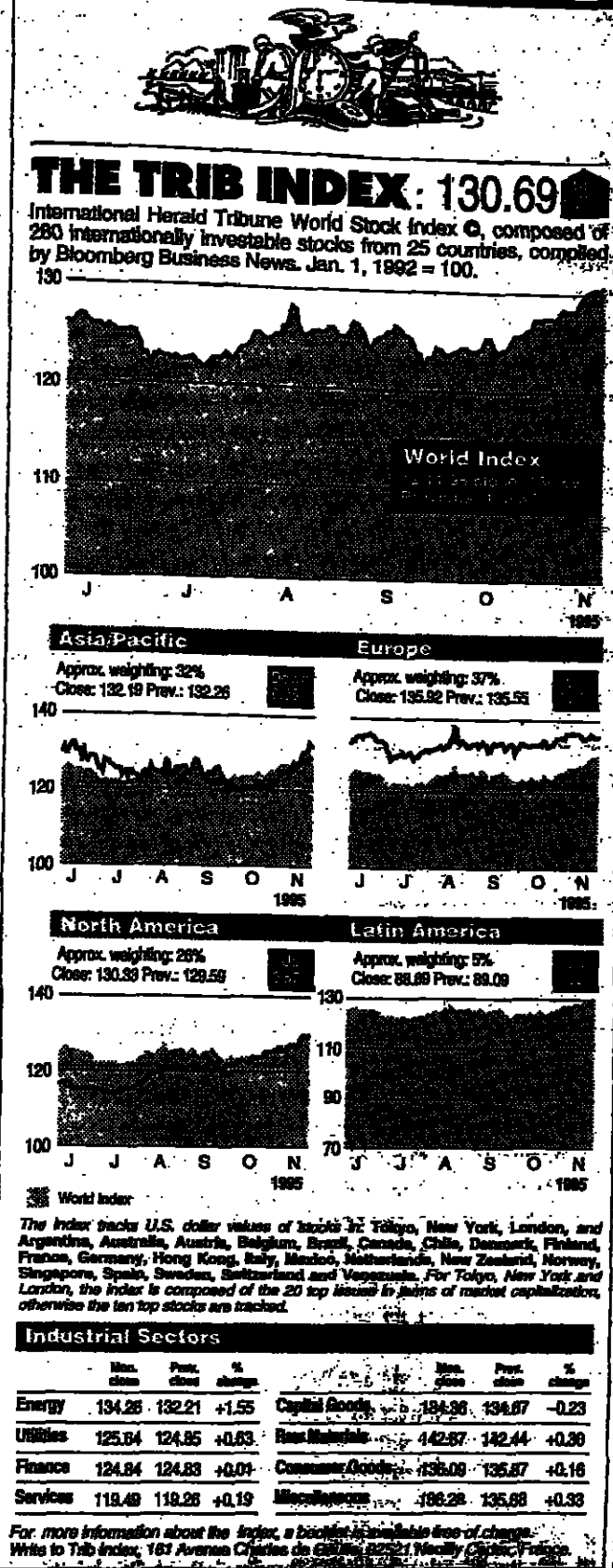
The Group of 10 comprises the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands and Sweden. The central bank governor of the host country, Switzerland, also takes part.

Olivetti Shares Advance 8.7%

Bloomberg Business News
MILAN — Shares of Olivetti SpA surged for a second consecutive trading day Monday, closing at 1,300 lire (82 cents), up 104, or 8.7 percent.

Expectations that the company's rights offering of 2,257 million lire will be fully subscribed by investors helped the shares, as did news that the company's cellular phone division, Omnitel, had started service on schedule.

Olivetti will use proceeds of the offering to pay for cutting its work force and for telecommunications investments.



Thinking Ahead / Commentary

A Fresh Agenda for the Atlantic Rim

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The United States and the European Union relaunched the Atlantic relationship this month, and hardly anyone noticed. That is a pity, because the so-called New Transatlantic Agenda signed by President Bill Clinton and EU leaders in Madrid could just could — be a geo-economic accord from which a great deal will grow.

It is understandable that few people paid attention. Except to the initiated, the agenda is dense, technical and dull — much less exciting than the dispatch of U.S. troops to Bosnia, which shored up the Madrid meeting off the front pages on both sides of the ocean. Many Americans are still unsure what the EU actually is.

For the moment, in any case, the agenda is just well-intentioned words on paper. What it mainly does is commit the two sides to a long list of specific economic, commercial, scientific, cultural and political joint actions, in fields ranging from Bosnia to ballet and biotechnology.

Washington and Brussels wisely decided against a grander, more eye-catching initiative — such as a new Atlantic treaty or a trans-Atlantic free-trade area — which would have been far more time-consuming and divisive.

In promoting trade, the thrust is rather to seek nitty-gritty progress in areas such as product certification and testing, which are of immediate interest to business and

consumers. Americans, for example, could perhaps soon buy drugs approved in Europe without waiting for U.S. Food and Drug Administration endorsement.

Nevertheless, it all adds up to a web of obstacles far more intense than the United States has with any other country, except Canada, which will hopefully soon be brought into the process. The Europeans should now be less concerned that the United States is turning its back on the Atlantic Rim to embrace the Pacific — fears that were always exaggerated.

In promoting trade, the thrust is to seek nitty-gritty progress in such areas as product certification and testing.

If the agenda is fully implemented, it should help to turn the United States and the EU — in other words, most of the West — into a powerful combined economic and political force in a world in which other power centers are rapidly emerging, particularly in Asia.

A basic aim is that the United States and Europe join together to confront the new global challenges of the post-Cold War era, whether they involve crime, drugs, migration, international trade negotiations or integrating Russia and China into the world economic system. Once

a trans-Atlantic agreement is reached, it is hoped that others will follow.

Many areas will remain politically sensitive. Washington hopes the EU will strengthen European security by bringing the Central European countries and Turkey into the Western orbit. But the Europeans do not want to give the United States a seat at the table when they discuss the EU's eastward expansion or their own future plans for closer union.

Washington wants European financial support in pursuing its international policies, in Bosnia, for instance, and in Palestine and North Korea and other trouble spots singled out for joint action. But the Europeans do not want simply to pay for American global leadership.

The Europeans believe the terms of the Madrid agreement enable them to avoid the worst of these dangers. More positively, they think it will help them put pressure on Washington to respect the rules of the multilateral world trading system and refrain from destructive unilateral actions.

They believe closer overall relations will make it easier to agree on security issues like the future of NATO, and they also hope that the need to present a common front to Washington will spur on the EU in its efforts to forge common economic and foreign policies.

It all sounds too good to be true. Maybe it is. But if the two partners actually do what they say, the ensuing ceremony in Madrid will turn out to have been a rather historic event.

Virtual Vulnerability: New Thieves Menace Electronic Commerce

By John Markoff
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — The discovery of a vulnerability has shaken the computer security world's faith in the safe use of the data-security technologies on which most current and planned electronic banking, shopping and "digital cash" systems are based.

The vulnerability has been found in a class of technologies known as public-key encryption — designed to protect electronic transactions by scrambling data so they can be read only by people with the proper mathematical keys to the code.

The flaw was identified by Paul C. Kocher, a 22-year-old researcher, who demonstrated a way that an electronic eavesdropper who is able to monitor the repeated process of unscrambling the incoming messages could figure out the private key. It can be done, he says, simply by keeping track of the precise length of time, down to the microsecond, it takes to unscramble each message.

Public-key encryption had been assumed to be so difficult to crack that only the brute force of a supercomputer could do it, and even then only if months or years were devoted to the task. So highly has Washington respected the technology's shielding power that its export is tightly controlled.

But a technical paper by Mr. Kocher now being circulated among computer security experts describes a type of potential attack — not yet seen outside the lab — in which a skilled criminal using only a good desktop PC could figure out the mathematical keys in only a few minutes.

Doing so might enable a network snooper to steal a consumer's computer banking deposit, siphon off a credit card number, read personal medical records or otherwise pilfer private data.

The newly discovered vulnerability does not affect various forms of private encryption technology between individuals or institutions communicating with parties known to them. Rather, it is the electronic systems for use by members of the public.

Experts who have read the

paper disagree over the likelihood of anyone's successfully mounting the type of attack Mr. Kocher describes. Nevertheless, his discovery of a chink in the best armor yet devised for digital commerce has presented scientists with the most sobering evidence so far that perfect security may be no more possible to achieve in the electronic realm than in the physical world of bank robberies.

Boon for Broderbund

Paul Allen, a co-founder of Microsoft Corp., acquired a 5 percent stake in Broderbund Software Inc. of Novato, California, Bloomberg Business News reported.

The investor paid a total \$59.8 million to acquire 1.03 million common shares as an investment, according to Schedule 13 D filed Monday with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	\$	£	DM	FF	Yen	Scd	Swk	DKK	Other
Australia	1.08	2.47	1.18	1.35	1.07	1.35	1.07	1.35	1.07
Canada	0.75	0.52	0.62	0.75	0.52	0.62	0.75	0.52	0.62
France	1.66	2.10	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Germany	1.37	1.93	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Italy	1.36	1.93	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Japan	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
UK	0.69	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Spain	1.66	2.10	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Sweden	1.37	1.93	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Switzerland	1.36	1.93	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Other	1.36	1.93	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Eurocurrency Deposits									
	1 month	3 months	6 months	9 months	12 months	18 months	24 months	36 months	48 months
London	5.50	5.75	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.75	7.00	7.25	7.50
Frankfurt	5.50	5.75	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.75	7.00	7.25	7.50
Paris	5.50	5.75	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.75	7.00	7.25	7.50
Other	5.50	5.75	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.75	7.00	7.25	7.50

Key Money Rates									
	1 month	3 months	6 months	9 months	12 months	18 months	24 months	36 months	48 months
London	5.50	5.75	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.75	7.00	7.25	7.50
Frankfurt	5.50	5.75	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.75	7.00	7.25	7.50
Paris	5.50	5.75	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.75	7.00	7.25	7.50
Other	5.50	5.75	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.75	7.00	7.25	7.50

CONSOLIDATED SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT	
Statement of Income (for the period April 1, 1995 to September 30, 1995) in Millions of Yen	
Net sales	2,344,610
Cost of sales	1,660,453
Income before taxes and minority interests	53,933
Income taxes	31,280
Net income	27,448
Net income per share	8.26 (in Yen)

Balance Sheet (September 30, 1995) in Millions of Yen	
Assets	Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity
Cash and cash equivalents	700,864
Notes and accounts receivable	1,110,249
Inventories	1,139,799
Other current assets	364,404
Property, plant and equipment	1,296,949
Other assets	799,186
Total assets	5,411,251
	Short-term borrowings and current portion of long-term debt
	Notes and accounts payable, trade
	Other current liabilities
	Long-term liabilities
	Minority interests
	Shareholders' equity
	Total liabilities and shareholders' equity
	5,411,251

In Touch with Tomorrow
TOSHIBA

EUROPE

Bleak Forecast
Sends Shares in
Usinor to a Low

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — Shares in Usinor-Sacilor SA, Europe's largest steelmaker, fell to a record low Monday after it said that second-half profit would be below that in the first half and painted a bleak picture for the early months of 1996.

Usinor shares fell to 67.00 French francs (13.42) before recovering to close at 67.95 francs, down 5.2. The previous lowest closing price for the recently privatized company had been 70.1 francs on Nov. 6.

"It's certainly the bad news of the day," said Ingrid Bellard, a trader at the securities house Kleinwort Benson France.

Usinor shares are trading at more than 20 percent below the company's initial offer price of 86 francs a share, set for individual shareholders in July. The sale of the French gov-

ernment's 80 percent stake in Usinor was the first state asset sale by Prime Minister Alain Juppé's government.

About 1.5 million shares changed hands on Monday, more than double the company's three-month average daily volume of 700,000 shares, making it the third most-active issue in Paris trading.

In the first half of this year, Usinor reported net income of 2.36 billion francs, including a 330-million franc charge for retirement benefits.

At an extraordinary shareholders meeting to vote on Usinor's planned merger with its steelmaker sister unit, Ugin SA, Francis Mer, Usinor's chairman, said the company planned to cut back production as customers worked down their high stockpiles of steel, which were hurting revenue.

"November and December will be down both on turnover and results," he said.

Noting that Usinor was a prime customer of the strike-plagued French national railway, Mr. Mer said second-half sales were being hurt by the strike, now three weeks old. He said high inventories would continue to eat into sales during the first few months of next year.

Mr. Mer added that while prices for steel and steel products sold under long-term contracts remained high, those for other products would be lower than in the past few months.

Jean-Marc Buchet, an analyst at the French brokerage Leven, said: "According to the official statements, we were on an upward trend. And now we have a downgrade. That's disappointing. It's the first time that we hear a cyclical company saying this."

Chlodan Garczynski, an analyst at CCF Elysees Bourse, said he expected Usinor to suffer badly from the strike.

Separately, Usinor said its shareholders had approved the merger with Ugin. Nine shares of Usinor are to be exchanged for every two shares of Ugin.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Computer Makers Bet on Europe
Saturation of U.S. Market Puts Focus on the ContinentBy John Tagliabue
New York Times Service

ROME — Mario Tronco paid \$2,100 six months ago for a personal computer that he hooks up to a 48-track digital recording system to produce mesmerizing keyboard music for his band, Avion Travel. When Mr. Tronco is not composing, his wife uses the computer, a simple IBM clone, for her translation business.

Growing up two decades ago in Caserta, a workaday town outside Naples, the musician, 32, attended schools with no computers.

"Computers?" The idea made him laugh. "They didn't have central heating," he recalled. But his cousin's 5-year-old son, Nicola, growing up in Caserta today, "turns the family computer on and off perfectly at ease," Mr. Tronco said.

The beta of Europe's computer industry is riding on the likes of Nicola. With improvements in European economies in the last year or two, sales of personal computers have boomed, growing at rates of 25 percent to 30 percent in each of the first three quarters of this year, after years of erratic growth.

Feeding the boom is a fierce price war, as computer makers from Europe, Japan and the United States flood the market with faster and cheaper machines intended to woo computer-shy Europeans.

The European divisions of American companies are getting their share of the action. Compaq Computer Corp. and International Business Machines Corp. are the No. 1 and No. 2 suppliers, and Apple Computer Inc., Hewlett-Packard Co. and Dell Computer Corp. rank in the top 10.

Europe's manufacturers are struggling hard against the American assault. Siemens Nixdorf Informationssystem AG and Escom AG, in which the German industrial giant Siemens AG holds a 10 percent stake, have had to slash prices to increase their share of the market.

The personal-computer division of Olivetti SpA of Italy posted a loss of \$162 million last year, and though it is fighting back with a new home-computer system called Envision, some analysts fear it may be the price war's first casualty.

What fuels the hopes of PC companies is that far fewer Europeans than Americans own home computers. Nearly four in 10 American households have a computer, but Europe is another story.

In technology-minded Germany, just under 20 percent of homes have a computer, about the same percentage as in Britain. In France, only 15 percent of households have a personal computer.

As the rate of increase in the sale of home computers begins to slow in the United States, the companies that make them are spending millions to convince Europeans that their future, and their children's, should have a computer in it.

They have learned that with computers, as with most other consumer products, the cost of having one is greater in Europe than in the United States. Fewer Europeans than Americans are exposed to computers in schools, and fewer use them at work. Computer-related products such as CD-ROMs and on-line services cost much more in Europe than in the United States.

Computers "are still quite high-ticket items for every household to have one," said Charles Smulders, who follows the personal-computer market for Dataquest Inc., a London-based market research firm. "Yes, penetration of the market is higher in the United States, so the opportunity is here in Europe." But, he added, there may always be a gap between the American enthusiasm for computers and that of the Europeans.

Seven of the regional companies have already spun off 908 million shares, or 53.7 percent of the company, to shareholders.

Shares of those seven companies fell sharply, reflecting their loss of the value of the Grid. Northern Electric PLC led the decliners, falling 340 pence to close at 588 pence.

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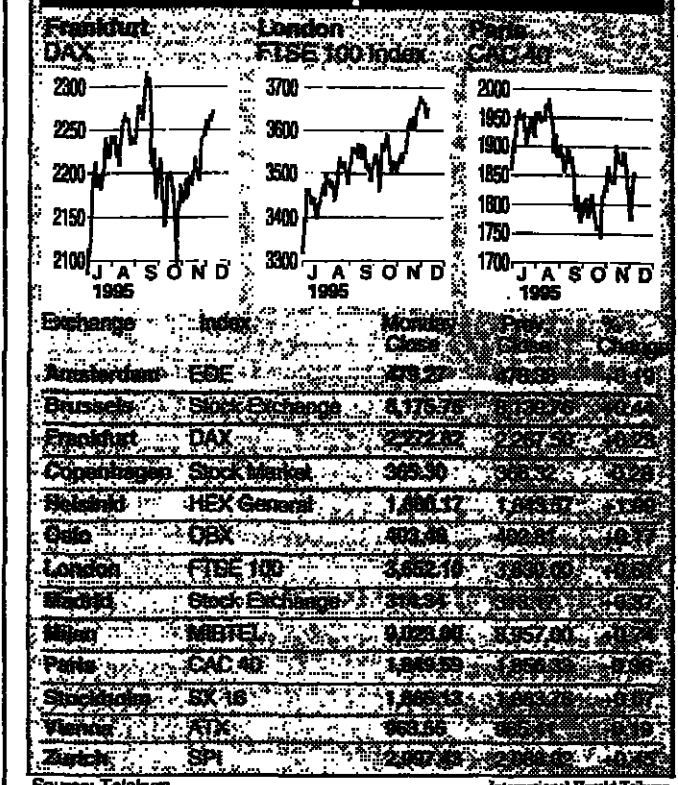
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Investor's Europe



Very briefly:

Sweden lowered its 1996 public-sector borrowing requirement to between 60 billion and 70 billion kronor (\$9.04 billion to \$10.54 billion) from between 70 billion and 80 billion kronor, because of the strength of the krona and lower market interest rates.

Belgium's current-account surplus widened to 229 billion Belgian francs (\$7.72 billion) in the first half from 169 billion a year earlier. The revised 1994 current-account surplus was 431 billion francs, compared with 417 billion in 1993.

Italian new-car registrations rose 12.4 percent in November from a year earlier, to 149,600; new registrations for the 11 months to November rose 1.33 percent from a year ago.

British producer output prices rose 0.2 percent in November from October, and a lower-than-expected 4.3 percent on the year. Input prices, paid by manufacturers for raw materials, fell 0.1 percent on the month and rose 6.2 percent on the year.

French consumer prices rose between 0.1 percent and 0.2 percent in November from October, and between 1.9 percent and 2.0 percent over 12 months, provisional figures indicated.

Norway's consumer price index fell 0.1 percent in November from October, bringing the November year-on-year inflation rate to 2.1 percent.

The European Commission has cleared the merger between RTZ Corp. of Britain and CRA Ltd. of Australia into the world's largest mining company.

Thyssen-Haniel AG's chairman-designate, Hans Jakob Zimmermann, has left the company after admitting he had his house renovated free of charge by various building companies; Mr. Zimmermann was scheduled to become chairman in March.

ABB Daimler-Benz Transportation's chief executive designate, Kaare Vagner, said he expected the Swiss-German joint venture to post 1995 sales of 3.5 billion European Currency Units (\$4.54 billion) and receive orders of 5 billion Ecu.

ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd. expects annual sales in Asia to double to \$14 billion by the 2000 from \$7 billion currently; the company hopes to raise East European sales to more than \$3 billion annually from \$1.5 billion presently. AFX, Bloomberg, Reuters

2 U.K. Utilities to Sell National Grid Stakes

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — North West Water Group PLC and Scottish Power PLC said Monday they were selling most of their interest in the electricity transmission company, National Grid Group PLC.

The two companies said they would sell a total of nearly 11 percent of National Grid, which was the most active stock on the London exchange in its first day of public trading. The shares belonged to Manweb PLC, which was acquired by Scottish Power, and Norwec PLC, acquired by North West Water.

The two buyers were required to sell the Grid stakes within a year.

North West Water wants to sell up to 100 million shares and Scottish Power wants to sell up to 81 million shares in an offering to investors set to close by noon Tuesday.

The sale, which is being coordinated by UBS Ltd. and the Kleinwort Benson unit of Dresdner Bank AG, is conditional

on the two utilities' accepting the price set by the brokers, Robin Henshall of UBS said.

North West Water and Scottish Power each will retain "a few million shares" to offset potential obligations to the small number of remaining Manweb and Norwec investors, the executive director for corporate finance added.

The stakes up for sale are worth £379.2 million (\$581.2 million), based on the closing price of Grid shares, 209.5 pence, up 0.5 penny.

Scottish Power shares closed down 1 penny at 367 pence, while North West Water shares rose 4 pence, to 589 pence.

National Grid is the owner and operator of the high-voltage transmission network in England and Wales. Stocks in the company were shared by the 12 formerly state-owned regional electricity companies. Those companies are either selling their Grid shares on the exchange or passing them to shareholders.

Seven of the regional companies have already spun off 908 million shares, or 53.7 percent of the company, to shareholders.

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SEE US ON CNN-TEXT PAGE 695

ASIA/PACIFIC

Foster's, in Foray Into Wine, Bids For Mildara Blass

Bloomberg Business News
MELBOURNE — Foster's Brewing Group Ltd. said Monday it would make a takeover offer of 482 million Australian dollars (\$355 million) for the winemaker Mildara Blass Ltd., its first earnest move into the wine sector.

Australia's largest brewer said it would offer 7.75 dollars in cash per ordinary share, against Mildara's closing share price of 6.35 dollars on Friday.

Mildara shares rose 1.50 dollars on Monday to close at 7.85 dollars, amid speculation there would be a competing bid.

The news lifted the share prices of other winemakers on speculation of further takeover offers.

Foster's, whose only link to the wine industry has been a small marketing interest, has

been in a position to make a sizable acquisition since the sale in August of its British brewing unit, Courage Ltd., for 1.2 billion dollars.

"There are differences between our existing businesses and the wine industry, but there is also much common ground," said Foster's chief executive, Ted Kunkel. "Success for both depends on a comprehensive understanding of the adult beverage consumer."

Foster's said it would use its capital base and marketing muscle around the world to help the Australian wine industry reach its aim of increasing its share of world wine exports to 5 percent by 2010 from 2 percent currently.

The brewing group said it would fund the acquisition through debt. Its debt-to-equity ratio will rise to about 38 percent from 22 percent, the company said.

Money managers and analysts said they were not surprised by the bid because speculation had been rampant that Foster's would pounce on one of Australia's winemakers. Mildara's labels include Wolf Blass, Mildara and Yellowglen. It has 4 percent of the Australian wine market by volume and 25 percent of the premium market.

Analysts said the bid made sense because it was in a business related to brewing and was expected to be bullish for Foster's earnings per share in the second year after acquisition.

"This is seen as a fairly good move for Foster's, as it fits in with their current business," said Russell McKimm, an analyst at the brokerage D&D Tolhurst in Sydney.

Foster's shares closed 6 cents higher, at 2.18 dollars on Monday, while shares in Broken Hill Pty., which owns 37 percent of Foster's, rose 24 cents, to close at 18.98 dollars.

Some traders raised the possibility of a competing bid. "The question is, does it stop here?" said Peter Mason, a client adviser at the securities house Austock Brokers. "Does someone come over the top of Foster's? Does someone make a move into another wine producer?"

Other analysts played down that possibility. "I think this is a pretty highly priced bid, and I would think it is unlikely that anyone will come over the top," said Greg Matthews, head of equity trading at Mercantile Mutual, which is a shareholder in Mildara.

A Privatization Puts India on Hold

Opposition Shuts Down Parliament Over Telecom Bid

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW DELHI — The unexpectedly large bid by an Indian-Israeli-Thai consortium to operate telephone services disrupted India's Parliament for the fourth consecutive session on Monday as opposition politicians charged the communications minister with corruption and demanded his resignation.

"Stop corruption; this is what the country wants," legislators from the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party and the United Left chanted in Hindi, causing both houses of Parliament to adjourn.

The lawmakers were attacking Telecommunications Minister Sukh Ram, who is overseeing the privatization of India's telecommunications sector. They said he personally profited by mishandling a tender to award licenses to local and foreign companies to run basic phone services.

Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd., a company from Mr. Ram's home state of Himachal Pradesh, led a consortium that bid nearly 850 billion rupees (\$24.41 billion) to operate in nine of 20 areas of India. The HFCL Bezek Telecom Ltd. consortium also includes Bezek Israel Telecommunications Corp., Shinawatra International Public Corp. of Thailand and two other Indian companies.

The government had been expecting a bid of only about \$20 billion.

After the tenders, Mr. Ram limited the number of regional licenses that any single bidder could win to three. Some opposition leaders have said he did so because the HFCL lacked sufficient financing for its bid. He also allowed the consortium to choose which three of the nine zones it would operate in.

Bezek has said it expects to enlist other phone companies and financial institutions to pay its share of the consortium expenses because Israeli rules prohibit the state-owned company from investing more than 100 million shekels (\$32.4 million) on any foreign project.

Mr. Ram has denied any irregularities in the bidding process, but critics have also argued that Himachal lacks the experience to operate the phone system.

The ruling Congress (I) Party said Mr. Ram would not step down.

"The opposition is creating an issue where none exists, with purely an eye on elections," a spokesman for the party said of the Parliament protests. General elections are due in 1996.

"What they want is a trial without an opportunity for the other side to state its case," he said. "It is the very name of injustice."

India, in line with economic reforms started four years ago, has opened up basic and cellular telephone services to the private sector, a move that has at-

tracted interest from outside investors and telecommunications companies.

Some Congress legislators have said privately they were angry that the dispute could affect their re-election chances. The Council of States, or upper house, was adjourned Friday after ruling party members stayed away, apparently to avoid being associated with Mr. Ram.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao met with Mr. Ram twice over the weekend, and the telecommunications minister said that any move to set up a parliamentary inquiry, an opposition demand, would send the wrong signal to both local and foreign investors.

The government offered to show documents relating to the case to opposition leaders, but they refused, saying the material would be insufficient.

The parliamentary furor is a boon to the Bharatiya Janata, the largest opposition party, which has made corruption in government a key campaign issue.

United Left legislators were reported to be planning to shift the focus of their questioning to Bezek. The Israeli company holds a 26 percent stake in consortium, and United Left is keen to extend its support among the 100 million Muslim minority in India.

Shinawatra, the Thai company, has a 16 percent stake in the consortium.

(AFP, Reuters, Bloomberg)

Investor's Asia

Exchange	Index	Monday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong Hang Seng	10000	9517	9033	+5.32
Singapore Straits Times	2200	2100	2100	0.00
Tokyo Nikkei 225	18000	18000	18000	0.00
London FTSE 100	4000	3900	3900	0.00
Frankfurt DAX	3000	2900	2900	0.00
Paris CAC 40	3500	3400	3400	0.00
Amsterdam AEX	350	340	340	0.00
Brussels BEL 20	3500	3400	3400	0.00
Madrid IBEX 35	3500	3400	3400	0.00
Stockholm OMX	1000	900	900	0.00
Copenhagen NASDAQ	1000	900	900	0.00
Oslo OBX	1000	900	900	0.00
Warsaw WIG	1000	900	900	0.00
Bombay S&P 100	1000	900	900	0.00
Kuala Lumpur KLC	1000	900	900	0.00
Manila PSE	1000	900	900	0.00
Jakarta JSE	1000	900	900	0.00
Wellington NZSE 40	1000	900	900	0.00
Beijing Sensitive Index	1000	900	900	0.00

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

•Larsen & Toubro Ltd., one of India's leading engineering and construction companies, said it would invest \$285.7 million in power projects over the next five years in a joint venture with Sargent & Lundy, a Chicago-based industrial concern.

•HSBC Ltd. plans to form a subsidiary called HSBC Insurance (Asia-Pacific) Holdings Ltd., which will conduct the group's insurance business in the Asian-Pacific region.

•South Korea said it would allow foreigners to invest up to 33 percent in joint-venture telecommunications projects with local partners, beginning in 1998; foreigners are currently allowed to hold up to 15 percent of a listed company's equity capital, with a single foreign individual's ownership limited to 3 percent.

•Mandarin Oriental International Ltd., a Hong Kong-based hotel concern, said it had leased land in Bagan, Burma, on which it planned to build a \$23 million hotel.

•Kuhn Sondhi Limthongkul, a Thai media tycoon who last week launched an English-language regional business daily, the Asia Times, said he was considering starting an Asian television news network.

•CMS Energy Corp., the independent U.S. power concern, said it planned to invest over \$1 billion, or a third of its capital expenses, in Asia over the next five years.

•The Karachi Stock Exchange suspended trading for a second consecutive day because of thin attendance caused by a strike called by the ethnic Mohajir National Movement.

•Shanghai-Volkswagen Automotive Co.'s Santana sedan has achieved a domestic market share of 46.2 percent in China this year, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

•Taiwan said it had approved \$2.28 billion of incoming foreign investment in the first 11 months of 1995, an increase of 60 percent over the like period in 1994.

(Reuters, AFX, Bloomberg, Knight-Ridder)

Packer Wants Unit Of Wilson

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WELLINGTON —

Kerry Packer's Australian Consolidated Press Holdings Ltd. has sought clearance from the New Zealand Commerce Commission to buy the assets of the magazine division of Wilson & Horton Ltd., the commission said Monday.

The unit publishes the Listener and New Zealand Women's Weekly.

Vince Cholewa, a spokesman for the commission, said a ruling was due by Dec. 19.

Wilson & Horton, which publishes the New Zealand Herald newspaper, is 44 percent owned by Independent Newspapers PLC of Ireland and by interests associated with its chief, Tony O'Reilly.

In May, Independent Newspapers had purchased a 28.3 percent stake in Wilson & Horton for 293 million New Zealand dollars (\$188.9 million).

Independent Newspapers has a variety of publishing interests located in Europe, South Africa and Australia.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

China to Ease Foreigner Ban

BEIJING — A ban on foreign interests buying nonlisted shares of Chinese companies is not permanent, the China Securities Regulatory Commission said on Monday.

The commission, which serves as China's watchdog, said that the prohibition was only temporary, while the state drafts new rules for such investors.

Beijing banned purchases by foreign interests in October after Suzuki Motors Ltd. and Hoechi Corp. announced in August that they had jointly acquired a 25 percent stake in Beijing Light Bus Co., a company listed in Shanghai.

The move gave the Japanese partners control over the Beijing vehicle maker, the first case of such dominance in a listed Chinese company by foreigners and provoked controversy in state and party circles over sales of state assets.

Meanwhile, Shanghai's B share index dropped 0.226 of a point, or 0.45 percent, to a record low of 49,492 points.

"Much position-adjustment selling emerged today, pushing down the index," one broker said. "Such selling is expected to continue in the next few days, possibly leading the index to hit new all-time lows."

But brokers said there was no panic selling despite weak sentiment after the market had lost ground for months. "Market fundamentals did not change much after today's fall," a second broker said.

EDF Seeks Stake In Power Plant In Eastern China

BEIJING — Electricité de France is negotiating with Chinese investors for a stake in a \$1.94 billion power plant project, the China Daily reported Monday.

The French power company is expected to hold a 20 percent share in a 3,000-megawatt Shihong thermal power project in the eastern province of Shandong, it quoted company executives as saying.

The deal should be signed in 1996, but the exact timing is unclear, the newspaper quoted Jean-Marie Delebarre, managing director of EDF's Beijing office, as saying.

The Chinese partners Shandong Electric Power Corp. and Shandong International Trust & Investment Corp. will hold a total 80 percent share, the report said, while Hong Kong-based China Light & Power will hold 20 percent.

The first phase of the project is already under construction with funds from Shandong Electric, the newspaper said.

The report gave no further details.

Chips Pull Down Korea Stocks

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — Shares closed sharply lower Monday, pulled down by electronics shares, notably Samsung Electronics Co., on news reports indicating declines in memory chip prices, dealers said.

"The gloomy prospects of the international semiconductor industry have led investors to bid down shares in electronics companies, which were very strong last week," said Park Yong Ho, an analyst at LG Securities Co.

The Korea Composite Price Index declined 15.12 points, or 1.6 percent, to 947.75.

In Saturday's half-day session, the index rose 4.25 points, or 0.4 percent, to 962.87.

The index was led down by Samsung Electronics, which fell its limit of 9,500 won (\$12.34), to close at 153,500, despite the announcement it had developed the prototype circuit design for the most powerful one-gigabit memory chip.

Samsung also said its sales in 1996 were expected to total about 20 trillion won, against an estimated 16.2 trillion won this year. Samsung Electronics' sales were 11.5 trillion won in 1994.

Despite the bullishness, "uncertainty about the global chip market hit Samsung shares," a Dongshin Securities broker said.

"Samsung's announcement failed to give a boost to the depressed market," said Park Chan Yup, analyst at Hyundai Securities. Semiconductor analysts have said demand for memory chips would slow in years to come.

The Electronics Times, a leading high-tech daily in Seoul, reported Saturday that prices for 4-megabyte dynamic random-access memory, or D-RAM chips are expected to fall to between \$11 and \$12 from between \$3 and \$15 because of falling demand. In turn, 16-megabyte D-RAM prices are seen falling to between \$45 and \$50, the paper said.

Shares in large exporters also fell on concern that exports will slow next year amid a weaker yen that lowers export prices of Japanese products, hurting their Korean competitors.

LG Electronics Co., a unit of LG Group, declined 800, to 28,100. LG Electronics is the largest shareholder of LG Semicon Co., one of the top 10 semiconductor producers in the world.

(AFX, Bloomberg)

ITC's Chairman-Elect Greeted By Share Slide

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

CALCUTTA — Shares of ITC Ltd. fell five rupees (14 cents), to close at 249 rupees on the Bombay bourse on Monday, after the weekend announcement that the diversified tobacco company had elected a new chairman.

The company's board appointed its vice chairman, Y. C. Deveshwar, to the post of chairman, replacing K. L. Chugh, who will retire at the end of this month.

"The change is going to be good for ITC in the long run," a local broker said. "But in the short run, the company may take time to get on the right track under the new leader." The spokesman said the market did not expect any further significant fall in ITC's share price.

The British tobacco company BAT Industries PLC, which holds a 31.67 percent stake in ITC, had opposed the appointment of Mr. Deveshwar but said it would continue to support any future projects for ITC that it deemed financially sound and not detrimental to the company.

"BAT continues to be interested in the well-being" of ITC, a BAT spokesman said.

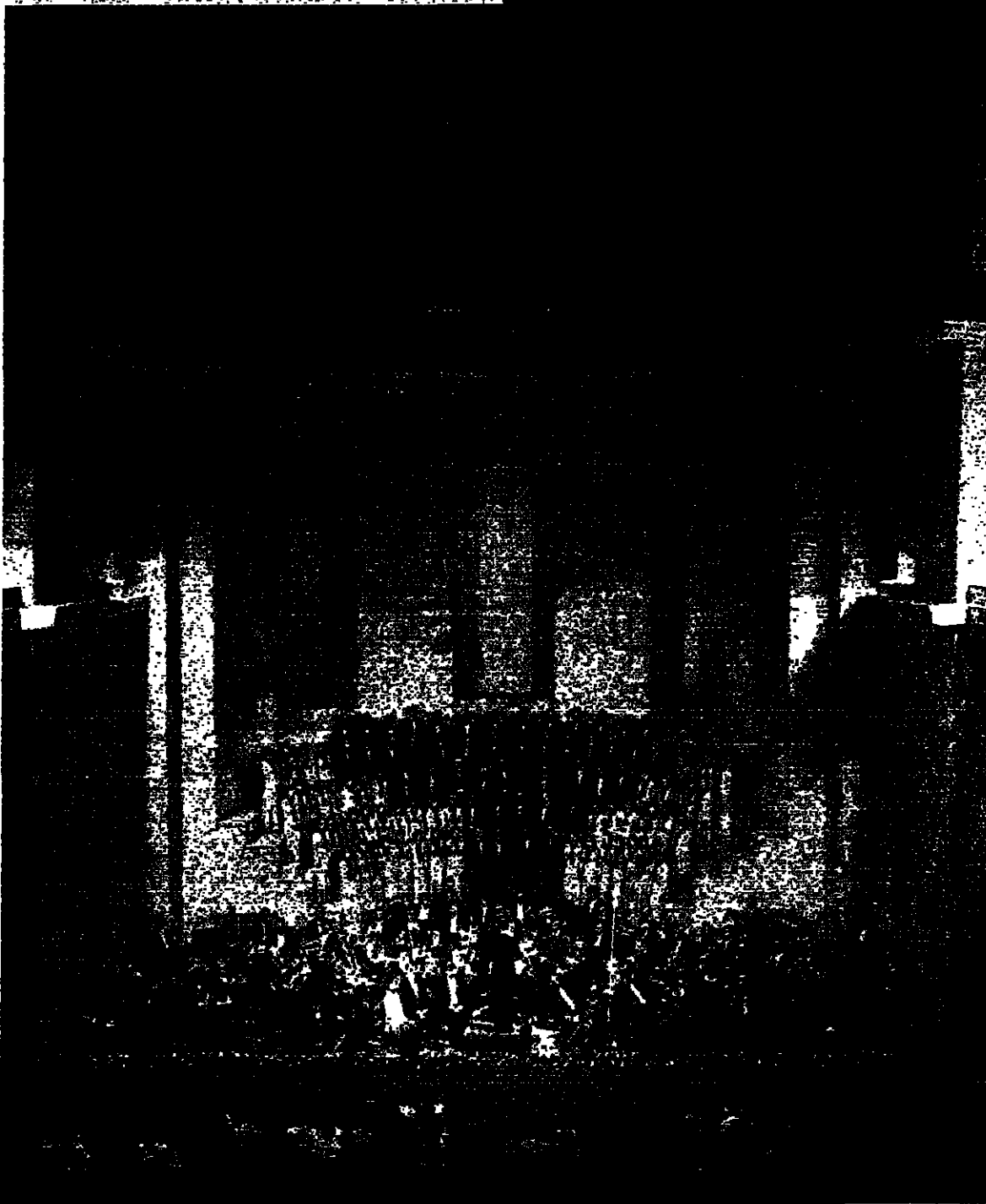
Indian newspapers have recently reported differences between ITC and BAT over who should lead the company after Mr. Chugh's retirement. Some reports said that BAT wanted one of its own senior executives to take over.

Mr. Chugh's tenure as chairman saw bitter feuding between ITC and BAT. The British concern alleged financial irregularities in the international-trading division of ITC.

BAT had also wanted Mr. Chugh to quit earlier this year, but he stayed on with the help of support from Indian financial institutions that own nearly 37 percent of ITC. In retaliation, analysts said, BAT blocked ITC's moves to invest significantly in India's power sector.

(Reuters, AFX, Bloomberg)

The church is Byzantine.
The orchestra is the Berlin Symphony.
The music is Carmina Burana.
The audience is 99% Muslim.



And the city is Istanbul.
The imperial capital of Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans.
The economic and cultural centre of modern Turkey.
Like in Istanbul, past and future

blend perfectly across Turkey.
Eight thousand years of history greet you wherever you turn.
So much so, you'll wonder why you ever thought of going anywhere else.

The Europe you don't know.
The Asia you will discover.

TURKEY

**Fund facts
via fax**

WORLD ROUNDUP



Hashan Tillakaratne celebrates scoring a century for Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka Goes Down

CRICKET Sri Lanka made 330 in its second innings of its test match against Australia in Perth, but still lost by an innings and 36 runs. Shane Warne took three more wickets for Australia to take his test total over 200.

Meanwhile Sri Lanka began official attempts to repudiate its conviction for ball tampering in the match, submitting a two-page report the International Cricket Council. (Reuters)

Twins Re-sign Aguilera

BASEBALL The Minnesota Twins signed pitcher Rick Aguilera, the club's career saves leader, to a \$9 million, three-year contract Tuesday.

The Twins traded Aguilera to the Boston Red Sox in July for two prospects. But at the end of the season the Red Sox chose not to offer Aguilera salary arbitration, enabling the Twins to sign him without compensation. (AP)

Strikers Unwilling to Share

BASEBALL Only one of the 17 players who started the season as strike replacements and then made it onto a major-league roster was voted a share of the postseason money by teammates.

David Pavla pitched 5 1/2 innings over four games for the New York Yankees. His teammates voted him a \$250 share.

Rick Reed was voted nothing by Cincinnati players but was sent a \$1,500 check by the Reds owner, Marge Schott. Reed pitched 17 innings over four games for the Reds, including three starts. (AP)

Mali Withdraws From Cup

SOCCER Mali withdrew from the 1998 World Cup qualifying competition Monday, 24 hours before the draw.

"The French government on Monday backed and granted visas to Nigerian delegates for the World Cup draw Tuesday in Paris in the face of threats from FIFA, world soccer's governing body, to take undisclosed action against the French."

"Two Yugoslavs, Darko Kovacevic and Dejan Stefanovic, were granted work permits by English authorities on Wednesday, seven weeks after being signed by Sheffield for £4 million (\$6.14 million). Both played for Red Star Belgrade. (Reuters)

Steelers March On While Raiders Slide

The Associated Press
The Pittsburgh Steelers won their seventh straight and tagged the Raiders with their fourth straight loss in Oakland, 29-10.

Billy Joe Hobert made his first start for the Raiders in place of the injured Jeff Hostetler and the ineffective Vince Evans. But was just as ineffective, throwing four

NFL ROUNDUP

interceptions. "I guess you start at the bottom of the barrel in the NFL," he said. Neil O'Donnell threw scoring passes of 37 and 14 yards to Ernie Mills in the first half and Norm Johnson kicked five field goals for the Steelers.

Seahawks 31, Broncos 27 Glyn Milburn accumulated a record 404 yards for Denver, but the Broncos lost at home to Seattle. The Seahawks' backup quarterback, John Friesz, threw two touchdown passes in the final 4:10 and Seattle remained in playoff contention by rallying from a 20-0 deficit.

Milburn carried 18 times for 131 yards, caught five passes for 45 yards, returned five kickoffs for 133 yards and returned five punts for 95 yards.

Atlanta 20, Redskins 13 Rodney Hampton made the needed yard on a fourth-and-one, keeping a late drive going, and Dave Brown followed with a 40-yard TD pass to Chris Calloway to beat Washington.

Buccanners 13, Packers 10 The Bucs stayed alive in the playoffs and won for the first time ever in temperatures below 43 degrees Fahrenheit (6 degrees centigrade) — it was a brisk 39 in Tampa.

After Brett Favre had given the Packers a 10-7 lead with an eight-yard TD pass to Keith Jackson six minutes into the final quarter, Michael Husted kicked a 38-yarder to tie it with 4:48 left. Green Bay's Chris Jacke missed from 45 yards with five seconds left. Tampa won the toss in overtime and Trent Dilfer moved them to the Green Bay 29, setting up Husted's third game-winning of the season.

In games reported in Monday's late edition:
Eagles 20, Cowboys 17 The game again put Jerry Jones, the Dallas owner, on the spot for replacing Jimmy Johnson with Barry Switzer last season after two straight Super Bowl victories.

Switzer twice chose to go for a fourth-and-one at the Cowboys 29 with the score tied at 17-17. Philadelphia stopped Smith's first run, but officials had whistled the play dead for the two-minute warning. Switzer again went for it and Andy Harmon stuffed Smith for no gain.

"That's why they have Monday-morning quarterbacks," Jones said even as Switzer was taken to task by Johnson

("they punt in that situation in high school, college and the pros"). Switzer's players defended him.

"If you can't make an itty bitty inch, you shouldn't be playing this game," said Deion Sanders, who was beaten by Fred Barnett for a two-point conversion that was crucial to the comeback by the Eagles, who now trail Dallas by just a game in the NFC East.

After the Eagles stopped Smith the second time, they opted to kick a field goal. Gary Anderson was good from 42 yards but the referee signaled he hadn't started the play. Anderson had to kick again. He made it.

49ers 31, Panthers 10 Steve Young, sidelined with shoulder problems in Carolina's victory Nov. 5 in San Francisco, threw for two touchdowns and ran for a third in the rematch. Young completed 31 of 45 passes for 336 yards in what was easily his best performance since undergoing surgery Nov. 13 on his throwing shoulder.

Bengals 16, Bears 10 Jeff Blake dinked and dunked against Chicago's deep coverage to set up three field goals, then threw a 38-yard touchdown pass to Danay Scott, sending the Cincinnati Bengals to a 16-10 victory. Chicago became a long shot for a playoff appearance when its offense froze on a frosty afternoon.

Bills 45, Rams 27 Jim Kelly threw four touchdowns passes despite a sore throwing shoulder and Thurman Thomas returned from a hamstring injury with 129 yards rushing in Buffalo's victory in St. Louis. Kelly completed 19 of 25 passes for 237 yards and had one pick-off.

Falcons 19, Saints 14 In Atlanta, Morten Andersen kicked four field goals including an NFL record three of more than 50 yards to give Atlanta a victory over his former New Orleans teammates.

Colts 41, Jaguars 31 Aaron Bailey returned the opening kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown and the visiting Colts scored twice after Jacksonville turnovers to beat the Jaguars.

Lions 24, Oilers 17 In Houston, Steve McNair threw his first career touchdown pass, but Detroit's top-ranked offense got a pair of TD passes from Scott Mitchell to Herman Moore for a victory, the Lions' fifth straight.

Fans cheered when McNair, called McMillionaire because of his seven-year, \$28.7 million contract, replaced Chris Chandler at the start of the second half. McNair hit Chris Sanders, a fellow rookie, for a 39-yard touchdown pass with 6:13 to play. But it was too late to make up for the mistake-prone Oilers' offense.

Patriots 31, Jets 28 Troy Brown scooped up Dave Meggett's fumbled kickoff return and raced 75 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with 5:39 left as host New England blundered its way past bumbling New York.

Now, Bo Knows His Family

The Associated Press
Bo Jackson, the former two-sport star was among those scheduled to graduate Tuesday at Auburn University.

Ten years after his 1985 Heisman Trophy season, Jackson completed a bachelor of science degree in family and child development. It's part of Bo's life after sports. He also aspires to act in movies and television series, and Bo only knows what else.

"I'm very serious about this," Jackson said in April, when he announced his retirement from sports, closing the curtain on a unique career.

Jackson was a baseball all-star with the Kansas City Royals and one of the most electrifying National Football League running backs. Highlights of his short career included a 91-yard touchdown run against Seattle on Monday Night Football, and snapping his bat in two after a strikeout.

What set him apart was the "Bo Knows" advertising campaign. His rapport with the camera, the way he spoke in the third person — "Bo this, Bo that" — was like some clinic, some class called "Athletic Stardom 101."

Jackson, 33, retired because of injuries, including a crushed hip suffered playing for the Los Angeles Raiders in 1991. He retired from football but played parts of four baseball seasons, two with an artificial hip.

Since then he has been spending time with his family in suburban Chicago, being the father he couldn't be when he was Bo.

"After eight months, I've really gotten to know my family," Jackson said when he retired.

Jackson was set to suit up in cap and gown and receive his degree in the basketball arena on the Auburn campus, across a parking lot from the football stadium.



Steelers' wide receiver Yancey Thigpen, left, trying to shake the Raiders' cornerback Terry McDaniels in Oakland.

Tennis Cup That Serves No Purpose

By Christopher Clarey
Special to the Herald Tribune

PARIS — The news from Munich trickled in regularly last week: Pete Sampras had a nosebleed; Boris Becker had a problem with crowd movement; Goran Ivanisevic had hit yet another ace.

All the while, one question kept performing a long, baseline rally through my brain: Why were they still playing tennis? Since its inception in 1990, the Grand Slam Cup has drawn considerable fire

and attention for the massive amounts of prize money it offers: \$6 million overall and \$1.625 million for the winner.

It is the richest purse in a sport hardly lacking in riches, and it is certainly out of kilter with the event's importance and tradition. But in an age when Mike Tyson earns \$40 million for 89 seconds of light exercise in the boxing ring, how can one protest too loudly when a tennis player earns nearly \$2 million for winning a weeklong tournament.

The more profound problem with the Grand Slam Cup is its place on the calendar. The 1995 men's season began on Jan. 2 with hardcourt tournaments in Doha, Qatar and Adelaide, Australia. It finished on Sunday when Ivanisevic, a fine player who had done little of note all season, served his way past Todd Martin, another fine player who had done little of note all season. In 19 days, the 1996 season will begin with hardcourt tournaments in Doha,

Qatar and Adelaide, Australia. This glut is inexcusable. It is bad for the general public, which has difficulty knowing when one season ends and another begins and no time to catch its breath and actually begin missing tennis.

More importantly, it is bad for the sport's chief asset: its players, who are asking too much of their bodies and psyches and potentially shortening their careers. "Tennis needs a real off-season," Andre Agassi has said.

Of course, all the stars need to do to extend their off-season is say no to the Grand Slam Cup, which is open to the top 16 players in the year's four Grand Slam events.

Boris Becker said no, calling the money indecent, until 1993, when it turned out, inconveniently, that his new manager, Axel Meyer Wolden, was promoting the event. Jim Courier has said no since 1991, to save his energy for the new year.

But most of the game's other main attractions keep coming. The problem for the Grand Slam Cup's credibility is that they generally don't do well. Since Sampras won the inaugural event in 1990, the Grand Slam Cup has been searching for another worthy champion. Its winners have either been players of lesser stature juiced up for a huge payday (David Wheaton, Petr Korda, Magnus Larsson) or players of major stature juiced up for a huge payday in an off year (Michael Stich in 1992 and, now, Ivanisevic).

"It's a little extra Christmas money," Sampras said.

That is hardly what the International Tennis Federation had in mind when it

launched the event in 1990, the year the players broke away and formed the ATP Tour. The idea was to create an event that would be too lucrative to ignore and, along with the Grand Slam events, form the skeleton of an ITF tour. Philippe Chatrier, the ITF president at the time, has said since his retirement that it is a mistake.

But it lives on, and an agreement signed last year with sponsor Compaq ensures that it will continue through at least 1999. It is not without value.

Crowds have increased steadily in Munich to near capacity this year. The event generates \$2 million annually for the ITF development fund that promotes tennis around the globe.

For that reason alone, this event might deserve to exist, but not in mid-December. The promoters agree, but it will remain in its current slot in 1996. And it remains highly doubtful that those who run the ATP Tour will accommodate a move to October that could take the shine off their year-end ATP Tour Championship in another German city: Hannover.

In Moscow, Sampras limped off the court the hero of an emotional U.S. victory. His right hamstring was strained. His bank account was full, but he was still heading for Munich the next day. As the Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion, he was entitled to \$500,000 just for showing up and playing his first-round match.

"What am I supposed to do?" he said, his arms out in mock helplessness.

In Munich, Sampras won his first-round match, collected his money and then defaulted because of his leg injury the next day.

Time to Draw in Soccer World Cup's Shoot-Out

Reuters
PARIS — The majestic surroundings of the Louvre are an unlikely setting for 190 hollow balls being plucked from goldfish bowls. Yet, the soccer fortunes of 161 countries will be partly decided Tuesday as their teams are allotted opponents in the scramble to qualify for one of 32 places in the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

There are more balls than countries because several of the continental qualifying tournaments are extremely intricate. Thus the draw at the Louvre will determine permutations beyond the first qualifying round.

South America is not involved in the draw. Brazil has already qualified as reigning champion and nine other Latin nations will play in a mini-championship, with the top four going to France.

Africa has been awarded two more places, for a total of five, in the expanded finals. Nigeria, the African champion, Cameroon and Egypt all have byes into the second round.

Asia and the Central and North American confederation each have at least three places in the finals. The fourth-best Asian team will compete for a place in the final in a playoff with the winner of the Oceania competition.

Europe's system of nine groups of either five or six teams to decide 14 final places between 49 nations, has drawn criticism. The nine group winners and the best second-place country will qualify but the eight other runners-up will be involved in do-or-die playoffs from which only four will emerge.

FIFA, the governing body of world soccer, proposed a simpler system of seven groups of seven teams with the top two from each group entering the finals. But last weekend FIFA accepted a plan by UEFA, which runs European soccer, even

though UEFA has not yet worked out how it is going to grade the performance of the second-place teams.

Because finishing first in the group will be so important, the nine top seeds — Germany, Spain, Italy, Russia, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden and Romania — will be eager to avoid England, Portugal and Belgium of the second seeds, Croatia of the third and Yugoslavia of the fourth.

The complex operation of the draw will be a television spectacular beamed around the globe, lasting the 90 minutes of a soccer match and featuring showbiz entertainment as well as a lot of soccer balls.

The program will be presented by Estelle Hallyday, a model and the daughter-in-law of the pop singer Johnny Hallyday. Sports celebrities will carry out the draw.

President Jacques Chirac will also take part.

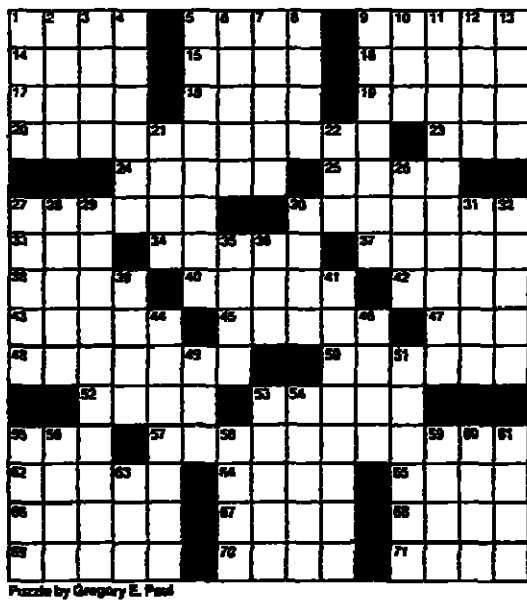
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Type of novel
- 5 Knucklehead
- 9 Continuing thought
- 14 Greek Matri
- 15 "Rabbit" (1962 song)
- 16 Ventilate
- 17 Harangue
- 18 MTV prizes
- 19 Old toy company
- 20 Wyoming's motto
- 23 Postal worker's pet: Abbr.

DOWN

- 2 Pick on
- 3 "Brute?"
- 4 Base (on)
- 6 Skyline sight
- 7 Language suffix
- 8 Belief
- 10 More experienced
- 11 New York's motto
- 12 Entrance, often
- 13 Stanley Gardner
- 14 Pre-Easter time
- 15 Hanol holiday
- 16 Debbling duck
- 17 List
- 18 First name in cosmetics
- 19 Arkansas's motto, with "The"
- 20 Brunswick, e.g.
- 21 Carpenter's tool
- 22 Clear a cassette
- 23 Snuggly
- 24 Mori's opposite
- 25 French Sudan, today
- 26 Newspaper
- 27 2,240 pounds
- 28 Tarsus shop
- 29 Gp. that puts the show on the road
- 30 Windle-resistant fabric
- 31 Lucidous
- 32 Declines
- 33 Touched down
- 34 Root beer brand
- 35 Rhode Island's motto
- 36 Not just an ordinary novel
- 37 Dig for
- 38 Sluggish's stat



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Solution to Puzzle of Dec. 11

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IRONMIND ADOPTE
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SPORTS

Those Weird Matchups

Knicks' Lineup Stymies the Spurs

The Associated Press
David Robinson found that playing against the New York Knicks' four-guard lineup can be a 7-footer. However, the matchups were all in favor of Rik Smits, the 7-foot-4 Indiana Pacer, against the Clippers and he took full advantage. Robinson's San Antonio Spurs lost to New York, 118-112, in double overtime.

NBA ROUNDUP

Sunday night despite his season-high 45 points and 16 rebounds.

The Knicks had to field a small lineup in the last 34 minutes of overtime after their entire starting front line fouled out.

"They had a lot of their big guys out and that was frustrating," Robinson said. "Their little lineup really caused a lot of problems."

Pacers 111, Clippers 104 Smits had no problems against the Clippers, dominating their center, Brian Williams, down low and scoring a career-high 44 points.

Smits tied the team record for field goals with a career-high of 20 in 29 attempts. Using his height advantage to dominate Williams and Keith Tower inside, the 7-foot-4 (2.23-meter) center scored 13 points in each of the first two quarters.

The Pacers opened a 22-point lead in the third quarter, but needed a final spur to hold off the visiting Clippers, who lost their eighth consecutive game.

Pacers 83, Grizzlies 81 Vancouver set an NBA record for losses by an expansion team with their 18th straight defeat in the league's first all-Canadian matchup.

Toronto, the expansion team from the eastern side of Canada, beat the Grizzlies in Vancouver behind the 24 points scored by the rookie Damon Stoudamire.

Miami held the record by going 0-17 to start the 1988-89 season.

Hawks 108, Celtics 103 Ken Norman scored 26 points and Grant Long added 15

with 16 rebounds as Atlanta stopped a five-game losing streak.

Norman's basket with 2:38 left tied the game at 98, and Long made two free throws with 1:42 left to give the visitors the lead for good.

Norman hit a fall-away as the shot clock expired for a four-point lead.

Dino Radja scored 28 with nine rebounds to lead the Celtics.

Kings 110, Heat 90 Sacramento capitalized on the absence of three injured Miami starters.

Playing without Alonzo Mourning, Kevin Willis and Billy Owens, the Heat suited up nine players.

Mich Richmond, playing only 22 minutes, paced a balanced attack with 15 points as Sacramento won for the sixth time in seven games.

Lakers 87, Pistons 82 Sedale Threatt made consecutive three-pointers 20 seconds apart as Los Angeles broke a 78-78 tie and went on to beat Detroit.

Vlade Divac scored seven of his 20 points in the final five minutes for the Lakers, including three points in the final 46 seconds. He also had 13 rebounds.

Cedric Ceballos led the Lakers with 22. Allan Hunter scored 21 for Detroit, seeking his third straight road victory.

Trail Blazers 103, Rockets 101 Arvidas Sabonis made a short hook shot at the buzzer to lift Portland over Houston in double overtime.

However, replays indicated that Sabonis let loose his shot after time expired and the replacement referees allowed the basket despite Houston's angry objections.

Rod Strickland led the Trail Blazers with 32 points, including a basket that put host Portland ahead 101-99 with 61 seconds remaining in the second overtime.

Hakeem Olajuwon, who scored 24 points, made a 10-foot jumper from the baseline to tie the score at 101 with 18 seconds remaining.



Avery Johnson, right, of the San Antonio Spurs battling Derek Harper, at 6 foot 4 inches, part of the Knicks' small lineup.

Islanders Rise

In Philly to Top The Flyers, 6-2

The Associated Press
The lowly New York Islanders not only beat the Philadelphia Flyers, they buried them.

"It really felt great beating the Flyers," the goaltender, Tommy Soderstrom said after the visiting Islanders romped, 6-2, at the Spectrum on Sunday night.

The Flyers, who had the fourth-best

NHL ROUNDUP

record in the league, were never in the game against the last-place Islanders. The victory had extra meaning for Soderstrom, who played for the Flyers from 1992-94.

Alexander Semak had two goals and two assists. Andrei Vasiliev added his first two career goals and an assist for the Islanders, who had dropped three straight. The Islanders had lost seven games in a row, the Flyers had won seven straight at home, scoring 33 goals, but were shut down by Soderstrom.

Capitals 6, Jets 3 Steve Konowalchuk scored three times and had an assist as Washington handed the Jets their third straight loss in Winnipeg. The Capitals had one of the lowest goal totals in the NHL — only two teams had scored less than Washington's 70 — but they walloped the Jets.

Blackhawks 4, Whalers 1 In Chicago, Jeff Hackett made 27 saves as the Blackhawks snapped a four-game winless streak. Murray Craven, Keith Carney and Joe Murphy scored first-period goals for the Blackhawks who had not won since beating Edmonton on Nov. 28 — the last time Hackett played.

Oilers 3, Mighty Ducks 1 In Anaheim, California, Kent Manderville scored his first goal in more than 20 months and set up a shorthanded goal by Scott Thornton as Edmonton beat the Mighty Ducks for its third straight victory.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	16	4	.800	0
New York	15	5	.750	1
Atlanta	12	6	.667	3
New Jersey	9	9	.500	6
Boston	8	10	.444	7
Washington	8	10	.444	7
Philadelphia	3	15	.167	12

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	16	2	.889	0
Atlanta	10	8	.556	7
Indiana	8	9	.471	7 1/2
Charlotte	9	11	.450	8
Cleveland	11	10	.524	5 1/2
Detroit	8	11	.421	8 1/2
Minnesota	6	11	.353	9 1/2
Toronto	7	14	.333	10 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	15	5	.750	0
Houston	12	6	.667	3
San Antonio	11	7	.611	4
Denver	8	9	.471	5 1/2
Dallas	6	12	.333	8
Minnesota	5	14	.263	9 1/2
Vancouver	2	18	.100	13

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	13	5	.722	0
Seattle	10	9	.524	3
L.A. Lakers	11	9	.556	3
Portland	10	9	.524	3
Phoenix	8	10	.444	5 1/2
L.A. Clippers	7	13	.350	7
Golden State	6	13	.316	7 1/2

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	21	2	.884	0
San Antonio	18	5	.783	3
Dallas	16	7	.692	5 1/2
San Antonio	15	8	.652	6 1/2
Phoenix	13	9	.591	8 1/2
San Antonio	12	10	.545	9 1/2
San Antonio	11	11	.500	10 1/2
San Antonio	10	12	.455	11 1/2
San Antonio	9	13	.409	12 1/2
San Antonio	8	14	.364	13 1/2
San Antonio	7	15	.318	14 1/2
San Antonio	6	16	.273	15 1/2
San Antonio	5	17	.227	16 1/2
San Antonio	4	18	.182	17 1/2
San Antonio	3	19	.136	18 1/2
San Antonio	2	20	.091	19 1/2
San Antonio	1	21	.045	20 1/2
San Antonio	0	22	.000	21 1/2

S.A. ELITE 8-10 5-23, Robinson 15-36 15-19

45 N.Y. 118, San Antonio 112, Spurs 7-17 8-25.

Rebounds—San Antonio 55 (Robinson 16), New York 48 (O'Dy 19), Atlanta—San Antonio 22 (A. Johnson 8), New York 16 (Hester 5).

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Sacramento 11-21 7-9 29, Dallas 11-21 1-16

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29

ART BUCHWALD

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WASHINGTON — For those people looking for a special present to give at Christmas, may I suggest donating to GRUMPAC, a political action committee that will provide your loved ones with unlimited access to their politicians for large and small favors. In this way your favorite people will be sure to get the services they are entitled to.



Buchwald

Just as some of the more successful PACs — such as SOUPAC — GRUMPAC's sole purpose is to listen to your story and make some telephone calls to the right people at the right time. For a \$50,000 contribution, GRUMPAC will arrange for you to sit in the speaker's chair when the House of Representatives is not in session. For \$100,000 you can sit in the chair when the House is in session.

On arrival at Washington's National Airport you will be met by private limousine and driven to the Capitol. In the private dining room you will be served navy bean soup with at least 14 committee party chairmen, eight of whom are being investigated by the House Ethics Committee concerning PACs they have created. After lunch you will be given a personal guided tour of the Senate where you will find friends of the PAC who can fax requests for you that the House can't.

What makes GRUMPAC superior to other political action committees is that it maintains computer records of who gave to the PAC and who didn't. The person who receives your gift will get a Christmas card de-

picting a joyful Newt Gingrich holding on to the back of Santa's sled with Senator Robert Dole laughing at his side. Also enclosed will be 10 tokens that can be used on the Capitol subway. The recipient will also be presented with copies of Phil Gramm's speeches written on endangered Texas alligator skin, plus a chocolate figurine of Pat Buchanan's Rottweiler dog who also manages his campaign.

But that's not all. GRUMPAC members have a right to influence their legislators and even threaten them if special interests are involved.

Most people try to get their message through by e-mail, but as a GRUMPAC contributor you will be given the front door key to your legislator's house, allowing you to enter his bedroom any time you want to make your case.

This is the gift for the person who has everything but who is still mad at Washington because he doesn't have even more. This is the first PAC organization that believes money is the best thing to give for the holiday season.

GRUMPAC has only one goal — to make our politicians happy and to ensure that there is enough money to come down the chimney. We're not just talking about Christmas — we're talking about a National Agenda, the American Revolution, the National Budget and the American Flag.

If you wish to get a PAC gift for someone special, write to: GRUMPAC, c/o Close Down the Government, Washington, D.C. For a limited time, if you are a registered lobbyist, you will receive a 10 percent discount when asking for small favors only.

Edward Yang: A 'City Rat' From Taipei to Portland

By Joan Dupont
International Herald Tribune

TAIPEI — The small house in the alley has different things happening on each level: Students and stray dogs loiter in the hall, and on the second floor, Edward Yang has his study and editing room. It is, in fact, a small studio named Yang & His Gang.

"I recently changed the title to Atom Films," he says. "I like in Atomic." But he is still boss. In this house he writes, teaches, designs sets, and edits the movies. "It's handicraft. I have to do everything myself, down to subtitles, because in Taiwan, we don't have that midlevel manpower: we only have bosses."

A leader of Taiwan's New Wave, Yang has been called the Taiwanese Antonioni, admired and disparaged for his dark films and Western ways.

"That's what critics do to you, and then people say, 'Oh, he's too Westernized.' I never thought of myself as Antonioni; I think I'm an optimistic human being. Pessimism is the privilege of the optimist."

He sees himself more like Woody Allen, a humanist who cracks jokes, and he admits he doesn't have much in common with "the other" Chinese directors.

"We're all filmmakers, just like the American independents, but basically, we're from different working backgrounds and we have different interests." He appreciates mainland Chinese films, but not "the more commercial ones about concubines. I like to portray Chinese women as strong; they live 10 years longer than men, and in our Confucian society, these are very powerful ways."

After the yellow earth and spacey sense of history portrayed in the films of Chen Kaige and Zhang Yimou, Yang's Taipei scene looks like a kaleidoscope of the island's cramped past, a story of occupation, corruption, and violence.

Sad-eyed immigrants from the mainland lose track of their values, and their kids. School gangs run rampant; lovers miss; typhoons strike.

Taipei is always at the center of a Yang film. "I'm a city rat, even if I make a historic piece, I want to make it pertinent to today."

"That Day on the Beach" (1983), starring Sylvia Chang, was the first part of an urban trilogy, a melancholy chronicle of modern love during the economic miracle. He cast pop singer Tsai Chin in "Taipei Story" (1985) and Cora Miao in "The Terrorist" (1986), and then took years preparing "A Brighter Summer Day" (1991), a brilliant group portrait of 14-year-old



Yang with actresses Chen Xiang and Ni Shunjun, right, of "A Confucian Confusion."

rebels without a cause, with no stars and hundreds of nonprofessionals who work with him still. The movie was an international success.

"A Brighter Summer Day" is really about my generation, growing up under a dictatorship," he says. "We had this disciplinary education, and when we crossed that line, we were responsible. Today, there's too much unnecessary information — it caters to standardization — and kids are brought up to listen instead of making up their own minds."

These mindless kids were at the center of his last movie, "A Confucian Confusion," a comedy about yuppies who wander in and out of love triangles, rigged up to their cellular phones.

Confucius is a word often on his lips. "When you become liberalized, you get this kind of Confucian waste. A few years ago, with the lifting of martial law, it was like the fall of the

Berlin Wall — everybody was optimistic. We used to think we were held back by the regime — I used to think that Mao did those atrocities to our people with his cultural revolution — but we allowed him to do it. Confucian culture means you believe in something outside yourself; democracy means you have to believe in yourself."

Yang, who has an American passport, has studied and worked as an engineer in the United States.

"I arrived in Florida the year after the lunar landings. We were all — three brothers and a sister — interested in the humanities, but we had to get scientific training, that's the Asian mentality. My dad came from a standard Confucian family with a long tradition of serving the government."

"My mother is a Protestant. She let us be

free. Here's a movie I may make some day: My mother's father was from the north. During the warlord days, he happened to follow the wrong warlord and ended in jail. This American missionary got interested in him because he could read and write, he converted him and got the warlord to release him."

His parents met in Chongqing, the capital of China during the war; they moved to Shanghai where he was born in 1947, then Taipei, like the civil servants in "A Brighter Summer Day." "I was not a good student, but I was a pretty good comic book artist. I loved to draw cartoons and make up stories. I still enjoy the same things, if you can't, you can't become a filmmaker."

During college, he got a whiff of the New Wave, from France and from Germany, and thought he might do something other than engineering. "Werner Herzog was a big influence in the '70s. I almost gave up my idea of being a filmmaker, and then I saw this weird movie, 'Aguirre,' and it inspired me."

He was reading American books, listening to the music. "I began to read magazines, and underground stuff. My own people think I look down on them, but it's not that. I think we're very deprived on the cultural level. Since liberalization, people are free to say what they think, and what they say most is, 'We don't like art.' Suddenly, we felt we weren't commercial enough. I don't want to say I'm an artistic filmmaker, I just want to be a good filmmaker."

The boom of movies from Hong Kong played a part in the urge to commercialization, and now Hollywood movies are taking over, he says. "Distributors go after Hollywood pictures, next the American independents, then the European movies. In a city like Taipei, we're used to things coming from the outside. I tell my kids this is a good time to be subversive. A machine like Hollywood needs fresh ideas."

Although he feels very connected to Taipei, he wouldn't mind working elsewhere. "I think the Pacific Ocean is shrinking. Many of my friends spend one month in the U.S., one month here. Actually, my next project will be set in Seattle or in Portland."

He is working on a script with a childhood friend whose father was one of the first Asian American policemen in Seattle. "A real character, but he got in trouble and left the force; the next day, he became a mobster. My friend works for Disney, so we're doing some family entertainment together. There's so much stereotyping of Chinese families. I want to show that we're just like everybody — we're not cops all the time, we can be mobsters."

POSTCARD

U.S. Plant Poachers on High Alert for 'Green Gold'

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — It may be the only native plant in Virginia that residents have taken to protecting with surveillance cameras, motion detectors and shotguns. Those who have it don't boast about their harvest, referring to their crop only in hushed tones as "green gold."

The commodity? It's not marijuana or cocaine, but the tiny ginseng plant.

Wholesale prices of the wild ginseng root, used in Southeast Asia for centuries to treat everything from stomachaches to impotence, doubled this year to as much as \$500 a pound in the United States. The price jump has many property owners complaining of ginseng poachers, and it has agriculture officials worried that the wild plant — already classified as an endan-

gered species — could be wiped out by overharvesting in some areas.

"The natural population is very threatened," said Andy Hankins, a Virginia Cooperative Extension Service specialist in alternative agriculture. "When the price hit \$300 in 1993, many people hit the woods. This year, when it went to \$500, they just went wild."

American ginseng, which has slightly different properties from Asian varieties, comes in two varieties: cultivated and wild. There's no shortage of the cultivated type, but it brings only \$25 to \$40 a pound and is not highly sought after by Asian buyers, who think it has less therapeutic value.

It's the wild variety that horticulturists are concerned about, because landowners and thieves, eager to make a quick buck while prices are high, are harvesting young plants that haven't had a chance to scatter

their seeds. Ginseng plants take six years to fully mature.

Federal law permits harvesting of ginseng from Aug. 15 to Dec. 31. But those hunting for the plant have found it increasingly difficult to locate. "These days, you're going to have to look for a long time before you find any in the wild," said Robert L. Romang, president of the Ginseng Research Institute of America, based in Wausau, Wisconsin. "The pressure is astronomical on the wild stuff." Experts believe the price increase is the result of increased demand in Asia and a growing appetite for the herb in the United States. The ginseng root is commonly processed into tablets, teas, extract, creams and other products. Although some believe ginseng can stimulate brain cells and endocrine glands, as well as cure illnesses, most Western physicians have not endorsed such claims.

PEOPLE

THE singer Michael Jackson is continuing to recover from the gastrointestinal ailment that made him collapse last week, and his condition has been upgraded to stable and improving. Doctors at Beth Israel Medical Center North in New York say that his heart is "completely normal" and he may be moved out of intensive care soon. They have said that his ailment probably was caused by a virus, leading to severe dehydration and lowering his blood pressure.

Michael Douglas and Val Kilmer are in South Africa filming a story of lions that preyed on workers during the building of a railroad. Douglas said at a news conference in Johannesburg that "The Ghost and the Darkness" will create an estimated 2,500 jobs during its filming at the Sengimvelo Game Reserve. The South African actor John Kani, also in the film, said it would tell a colonial-era tale from the African point of view.



Val Kilmer, left, John Kani and Michael Douglas at news conference in Johannesburg.

The brother of the Sultan of Brunei has donated to Britain three royal crowns and the Bible on which George III swore his coronation oath, which had been the center of an export dispute. Prince Jefri Bolkiah bought the London jeweler Asprey, which had acquired the items in 1987. The crowns and Bible, valued at about £1.7 million (\$2.6 million), had been the target of eager bidding from foreign buyers, and national heritage groups had been frantically trying to raise enough to keep them in Britain.

Spike Lee is taking on the small screen with big hopes. The filmmaker said there were too many cartoonish sitcoms about black life and not enough

black dramas on TV, so he's writing his own pilot for CBS. "I'm working on a pilot called 'Slim's Table' that looks at older black men who gather every day at a Greek restaurant and talk about life," he told TV Guide. "This is a drama, but that doesn't mean it has to be devoid of humor."

Phil Collins emerged as British rock and roll's top earner last year. The top 10 was dominated by aging stars with the 44-year-old Collins leading the field with earnings of \$24.2 million, according to the survey by the music industry analyst Cuffi Dane. Next came the 43-year-old Elton John with \$12.65 million, followed by Eric Clapton, Sting and Annie Lennox. David Bowie, Rod

Stewart and the Rolling Stones did not appear on the chart because their finances are based abroad, Dane said.

Joe Eszterhas, the writer of "Basic Instinct" and "Showgirls," showed up to accept the Sour Apple Award, given by the Hollywood Women's Press Club to the celebrity deemed least newsworthy or to those who "believe their own publicity." He was the first recipient in 55 years to accept the dubious honor in person.

Ice-T, the rapper who wrote "Cop Killer," has a new message for teens: Stay away from drugs, violence and the fast buck. Ice-T spoke to students at three schools in Minneapolis.

At one, he asked students to raise their hands if they knew someone who sold or used drugs and ran with a gang. Almost all 900 in the audience raised their hands. When he asked whether they knew anyone older than 25 with that lifestyle, who had not gone to jail or been shot, all but a few hands came down. "There is no retirement, and you can't win," he said.

The writer Marsha Norman has made a plea for the preservation of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning novelist and playwright told a Kentucky Arts Council life, how it poses questions for the next generation and how it will be remembered.

WEATHER

Forecast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

Europe

City	Temp	Wind	Humidity	City	Temp	Wind	Humidity
	H	W			H	W	
London	14/57	10/61	c	16/81	9/49	c	
Amsterdam	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Athens	54/11	7/21	c	64/83	-2/28	c	
Berlin	13/55	7/64	c	15/78	1/24	c	
Bombay	16/27	6/44	pb	23/55	4/29	c	
Boston	2/25	1/24	c	8/85	1/24	pb	c
Buenos Aires	12/57	1/25	c	15/78	1/24	c	
Calcutta	16/27	6/44	pb	23/55	4/29	c	
Chicago	12/57	1/24	c	8/85	1/24	pb	c
Delhi	16/27	6/44	pb	23/55	4/29	c	
London	14/57	10/61	c	16/81	9/49	c	
Los Angeles	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Madrid	54/11	7/21	c	64/83	-2/28	c	
Moscow	13/55	7/64	c	15/78	1/24	c	
Mumbai	16/27	6/44	pb	23/55	4/29	c	
New York	12/57	1/24	c	8/85	1/24	pb	c
Paris	14/57	10/61	c	16/81	9/49	c	
San Francisco	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Seattle	54/11	7/21	c	64/83	-2/28	c	
Shanghai	16/27	6/44	pb	23/55	4/29	c	
Singapore	12/57	1/24	c	8/85	1/24	pb	c
Tokyo	14/57	10/61	c	16/81	9/49	c	
Washington	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Yokohama	16/27	6/44	pb	23/55	4/29	c	

Asia

City	Temp	Wind	Humidity	City	Temp	Wind	Humidity
	H	W			H	W	
Bangkok	30/86	22/71	c	30/86	22/71	c	
Beijing	14/44	-1/29	c	4/28	-4/22	c	
Hong Kong	20/71	18/64	c	20/71	18/64	c	
Manila	28/84	27/71	c	31/88	27/71	c	
Seoul	14/44	-1/29	c	4/28	-4/22	c	
Singapore	11/52	3/37	c	11/52	3/37	c	
Taipei	31/86	27/71	c	31/86	27/71	c	
Tokyo	23/73	15/59	c	20/71	17/62	c	
Yokohama	10/50	1/34	c	11/52	-1/21	c	

Latin America

City	Temp	Wind	Humidity	City	Temp	Wind	Humidity
	H	W			H	W	
Buenos Aires	30/86	18/62	c	29/84	17/62	pb	c
Caracas	13/55	7/62	pb	29/84	17/62	pb	c
La Paz	21/71	18/64	c	31/73	18/64	c	
Lima	21/71	18/64	c	31/73	18/64	c	
Sao Paulo	24/78	24/73	c	27/80	22/71	c	
Santiago	21/70	9/48	c	22/71	9/48	pb	c

North America

A storm system will bring rain and snow to Detroit and Chicago Wednesday night through Thursday, and to New York, City and Boston Thursday night through Friday. Heavy rain and perhaps a heavy wet snow will fall late this week in San Francisco and Seattle. Unseasonably warm Wednesday through Thursday in Houston.

Europe

A storm will bring soaking rains and gusty winds to Rome Wednesday and follow showers Thursday. Heavy rain and perhaps a heavy wet snow will fall in the middle of the week in Milan. Cold winds in London Wednesday through Friday with a few snow showers possible.

Asia

Humid in Manila Wednesday through Friday with a few showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy in Hong Kong and Taipei with a chance of showers Wednesday. Rain could move into Shanghai late in the week. Early sunny in Tokyo Wednesday; it could shower Thursday or Friday.

Middle East

City	Temp	Wind	Humidity	City	Temp	Wind	Humidity
	H	W			H	W	
Abu Dhabi	23/73	21/70	c	24/75	16/81	c	
Bahra	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Cairo	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Damascus	12/57	6/45	c	12/57	6/45	c	
Jordan	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Lugad	18/64	3/27	c	21/70	4/29	c	
Riyadh	22/71	4/29	c	22/71	4/29	c	

Africa

City	Temp	Wind	Humidity	City	Temp	Wind	Humidity
	H	W			H	W	
Algeria	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Angola	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Benin	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Burkina Faso	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Cameroon	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Chad	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Cote d'Ivoire	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Egypt	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Ghana	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Guinea	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Guinea-Bissau	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Ivory Coast	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Kenya	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Liberia	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Mali	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Morocco	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Niger	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Nigeria	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Senegal	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Sierra Leone	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Togo	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Tunisia	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Zambia	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Zimbabwe	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	

Oceania

City	Temp	Wind	Humidity	City	Temp	Wind	Humidity
	H	W			H	W	
Auckland	24/75	16/81	c	24/75	16/81	c	
Brisbane	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Canberra	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Darwin	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Hobart	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Melbourne	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Perth	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Sydney	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	
Toronto	16/81	8/45	c	17/62	3/48	c	
Wellington	13/57	7/62	pb	14/74	1/24	c	

Legend

Light: partly cloudy, cloudy, snow showers, thunderstorms, rain, snow showers